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FILE COPY

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Dybdall Grist Mill

AND/OR COMMON

Chapman Lake Mill

**2 LOCATION**

STREET & NUMBER

Rock Creek, south end of Chapman Lake

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY TOWN

Cheney

VICINITY OF

#5 - Honorable Thomas S. Foley

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

Washington

CODE  
53

COUNTY  
Spokane

CODE  
063

**3 CLASSIFICATION**

**CATEGORY**

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

**OWNERSHIP**

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH
- PUBLIC ACQUISITION**
- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

**STATUS**

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS
- ACCESSIBLE**
- YES RESTRICTED
- YES UNRESTRICTED
- NO

**PRESENT USE**

- AGRICULTURE
- MUSEUM
- COMMERCIAL
- PARK
- EDUCATIONAL
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- ENTERTAINMENT
- RELIGIOUS
- GOVERNMENT
- SCIENTIFIC
- INDUSTRIAL
- TRANSPORTATION
- MILITARY
- OTHER

**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

O. C. Dybdall, Jr.

STREET & NUMBER

Rt. 3, Box 101

CITY TOWN

Cheney

VICINITY OF

STATE  
Washington

**5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS ETC

Spokane County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

W. 1116 Broadway Avenue

CITY TOWN

Spokane

STATE  
Washington

**6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE

Washington State Inventory of Historic Places

DATE

1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Washington State Parks & Recreation Commission

CITY TOWN

Olympia

STATE  
Washington

# 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" 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

The Dybdall Grist Mill is a three-story single wall board and batten building of braced frame construction. It is located on Rock Creek near the south end of Chapman Lake in a sparsely settled section of southern Spokane County. The mill is a simple structure, square in plan, roughly 30 feet on each side, and with a saltbox roof. Rock Creek runs in front of the mill, which is situated on a wooded hillside that rises from the creek bed.

The structural system consists of posts with horizontal members let in and nailed. Shouldered toe joints are used to connect the diagonal bracing, and extensive reinforcement is provided under the heavier machinery.

The second story of the building is the main floor, and it is entered from the back at ground level because of the sloping site. On either side of this entrance is a storage area at the beginning and end of the work flow. The grain loading chute for the elevator and the flour packer are strategically placed near the door. The roller milling equipment itself (a crucial intermediate stage in the processing) is also positioned on this floor in the remaining portion toward the front.

Additional equipment is located on the third floor and in the loft at the attic level. Here the grain was first cleaned and conditioned and later sifted before being sent down to the grinding apparatus and then returned for further purification. It was a complex cyclical process where the material was repeatedly ground into finer grades. At each stage, the flour was sifted and that which had already reached the proper consistency was removed. Bran was separated in the final sifting and bagged separately.

The material was moved between floors by an enclosed belt-bucket conveyor or "elevator" and gravity chutes.

The Dybdall Mill contains the following grain processing apparatus, listed in the sequence of operation, and all manufactured by Barnard and Lees:

For cleaning and conditioning --  
  grain scourer

For grinding --  
  two stage roller grinders (four)

For bolting --  
  plan sifter  
  dust collector  
  reel (sieve)

For purification --  
  middlings purifier  
  sifter  
  bran duster

For collecting and bagging --  
  packer

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Power is supplied to the machinery through an amazing system of jack shafts, belts and pulleys connected to a water driven turbine. The main equipment is located on the lower level of the building referred to as the drive room.

The mill building was constructed in 1897 equipped with three, two-stage roller grinders. In 1910, a fourth grinder was added, and the middlings purifier and dust collector were installed. An auxiliary gas engine was connected to the drive system in 1925 for use when the supply of water to the flume was insufficient. Eventually the wooden flume itself was replaced with an ingenious is slightly grotesque assembly of steel boilers cut lengthwise, welded together and supported on top of old truck frames that had been stood on end and set in concrete.

With the above exceptions the structure and machinery remain as built, although wind damage and general deterioration of the roof are serious problems. Shingles on the east slope have been hastily protected by <sup>sheets of</sup> corrugated aluminum, but high winds threaten to tear these loose. At the back, the lower half of the roof has collapsed entirely causing considerable rot and water damage to the floor. As yet no machinery has been affected, and there is no noticeable structural sag due to the heavy reinforcement built into the original framing.

## 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 checked="" 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 1897, enlarged 1910

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Ole C. Dybdall

### STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In the early 1880's Fred Wagner and Henry Hinkney constructed a small sawmill on Chapman Lake in southern Spokane County. This operation supplied lumber for the farms and homesteads around the lake. Eventually their materials were transported as far as Cheney, ten miles north in Spokane County, and as far as the Hole in the Ground, ten miles south in Whitman County. The mill machinery itself was brought to Chapman Lake by freight wagon from Wallula on the Columbia River.

In 1896 Ole C. Dybdall, a Norwegian immigrant, bought the sawmill and property. Dybdall was a skilled miller as well a sawyer through experience he had acquired in Norway. In the following year, 1897, he built a turbine driven grist mill on Rock Creek just below the southern tip of Chapman Lake. This mill is still standing with the original equipment in place. It is a complex, multi-stage operation that clearly required considerable technical understanding and engineering ability to assemble. Some supplemental machinery was installed in 1910, although the process itself was basically unchanged.

O. C. Dybdall operated both the grist and sawmills until 1919 when he died at age 60 while returning from an auction. His wife Annie and son Ole C. Dybdall, Jr. continued the milling operations after his death.

The grist mill remained in service until 1955. Although the original sawmill is gone, Ole Dybdall, Jr. continues at 74 to saw lumber for individuals.

At its peak in the 1920's and 30's, the Dybdall Grist Mill produced 30 barrels a day. Because of its eight stage roller grinding process, the mill was well-known throughout the area for the finest baking flour available. The usual six stage equipment commonly used by larger mills provided a coarser flour less desirable in comparison.

Due to tremendous increases in grain production and the demand for high volume processing, the Dybdall Mill was obsolete soon after it was built, although business continued to improve. This small facility provided high quality custom milling, an increasingly rare service, and by 1934 it was the only grist mill of its kind in a major wheat producing area. Some farmers would travel as far as 100 miles to insure that the flour they obtained was ground properly from the specific grade of grain they provided.

Whitman County immediately to the south of Chapman Lake presently yields the greatest quantity of wheat harvested in any Washington county. The state's average wheat production exceeds 120 million bushels, 80 percent of which is exported.

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CONTINUATION SHEET

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Very few comparable grist mills survive anywhere in Washington, most having been dismantled or destroyed as fire hazards. Considering its rarity as an industrial artifact and the importance of wheat to the nation's economy, the Dybdall Grist Mill represents a significant period in the history of Pacific Northwest agriculture.

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Interviews with the owner, Ole C. Dybdall, Jr.

## 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY Less than one

UTM REFERENCES

A	1 1	4 5 7 2 9 0	5 2 4 4 4 2 0	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

Jacob E. Thomas and Patsy M. Garrett, Historic Preservation Specialists

ORGANIZATION Office of Archaeology & Historic Preservation

DATE

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

June 1975

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

P. O. Box 1128

753-4116

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Olympia

Washington

## 12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS

NATIONAL     

STATE     

LOCAL X

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

*Ruth M. Sholte*

TITLE

State Conservator

DATE

September 15, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

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HISTORIC

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AND/OR COMMON

Chapman Lake Mill

**2 LOCATION**

CITY TOWN

Cheney

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Spokane

STATE

Washington

**3 MAP REFERENCE**

SOURCE

Cheney Quad

SCALE

1:62 500

DATE

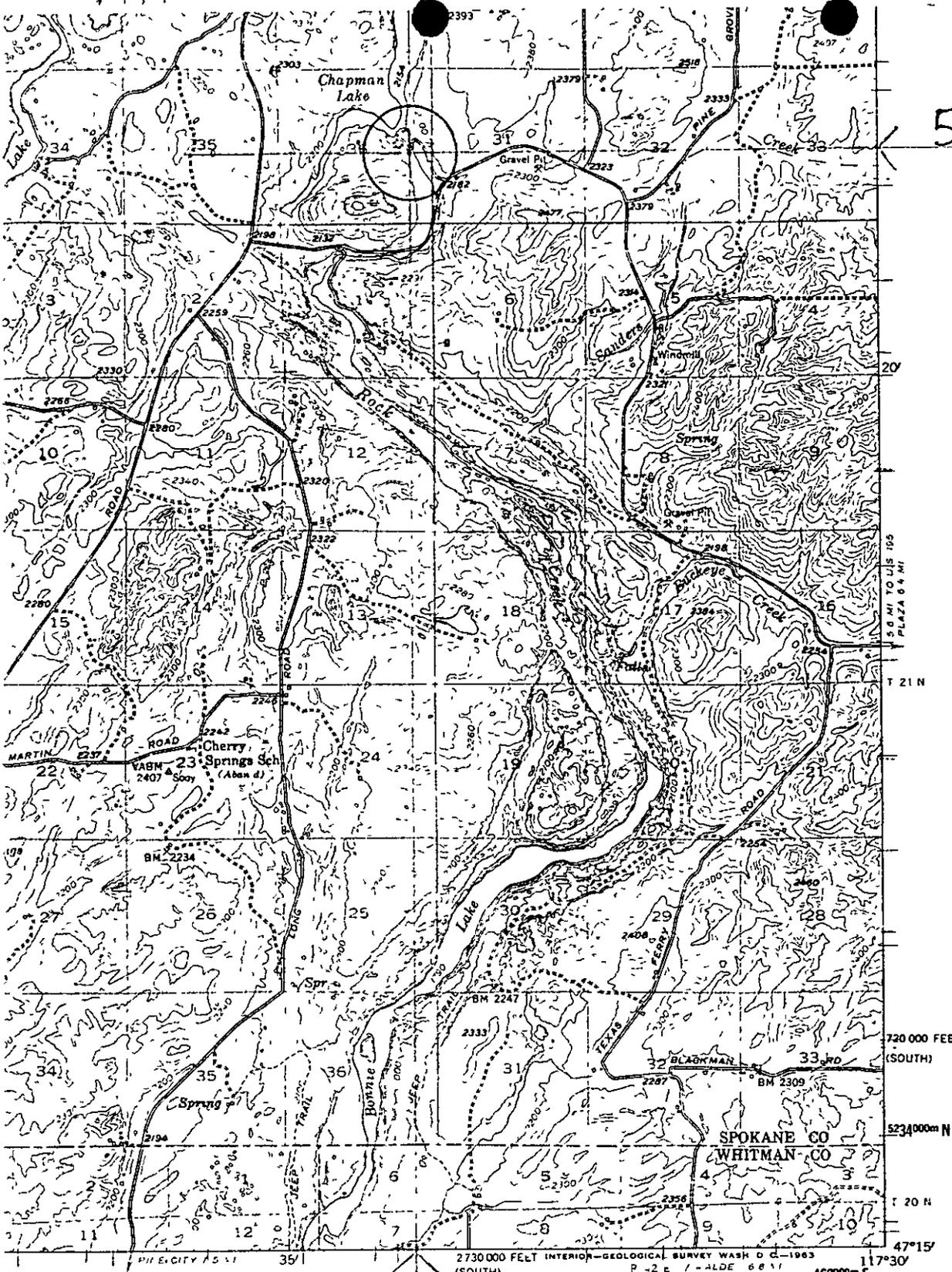
1954

**4 REQUIREMENTS**

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

- 1 PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
- 2 NORTH ARROW
- 3 UTM REFERENCES

5244420



5.8 MI TO LIS 195  
PLAZA 6.8 MI

T 21 N

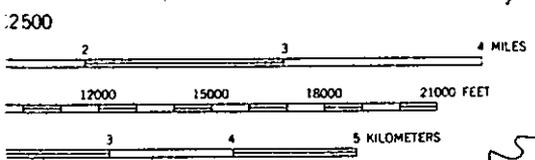
720 000 FEET  
(SOUTH)

5234000m N

T 20 N

47°15'

117°30'  
462000m E  
OAKSDALE 1 125000



AL 20 FEET  
SEA LEVEL



QJADRANGLE LOCATION

ROAD CLASSIFICATION  
1963

Heavy duty ——— Light duty - - - - -  
Medium duty ——— Unimproved dirt - - - - -

U S Route      State Route

457290

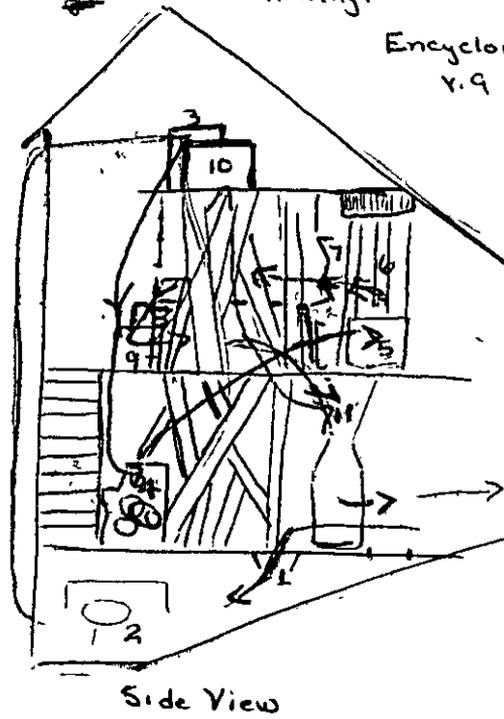
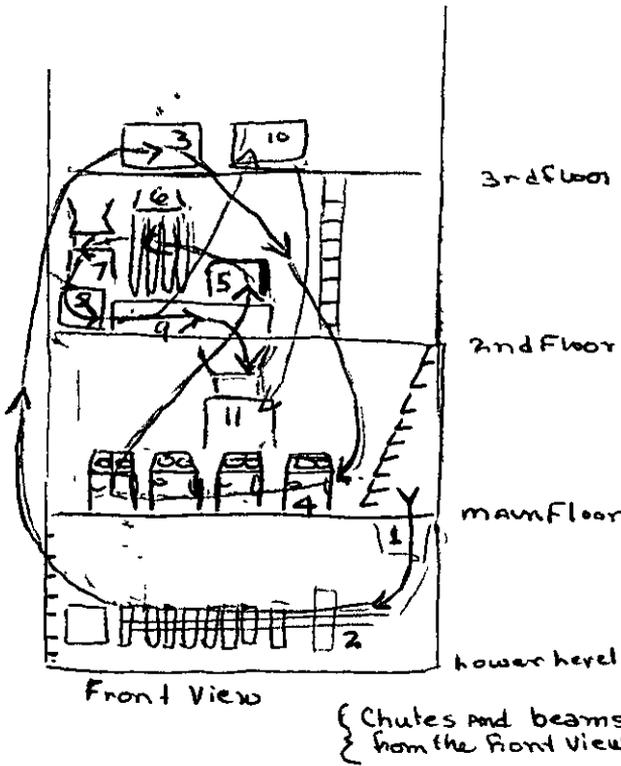
CHENEY, WASH  
N4715-W11730/15

L MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS  
ER 25, COLORADO OR WASHINGTON 25 D C  
ND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE ON REQUEST

1954

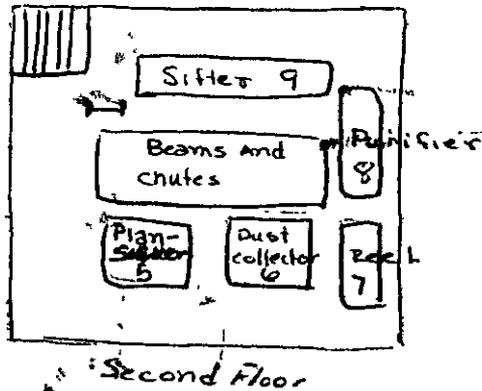
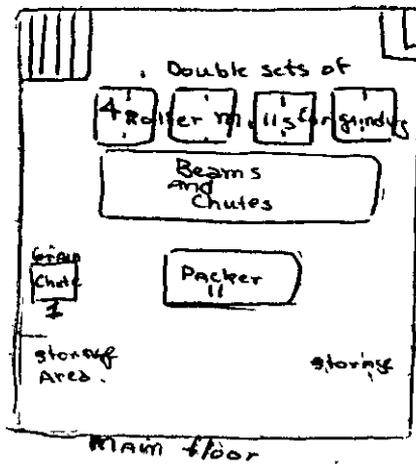
"Milling may appear to be a simple process, actually it is a complicated one - - - -  
 The diagram or flow sheet of a large modern mill would probably be unintelligible  
 except to those trained in the techniques of milling."

Encyclopedia Britannica  
 V. 9 p 405



{ Chutes and beams omitted }  
 { from the front view }

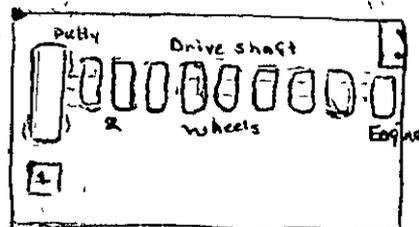
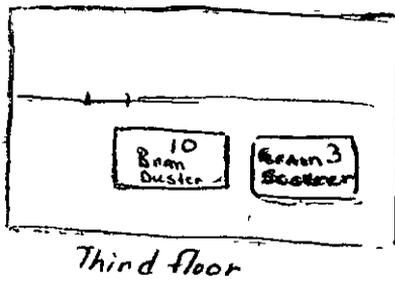
What method of conveyance (up) what machinery + dates



I. Wheat Cleaning And Conditioning  
 1 grain chute  
 2 drive machinery  
 3. GRAM SCOURER

II Grinding  
 A. Roller Grinders  
 (Grain is passed from each roller to the next, although flour is created in each break and processed, the intent is for gentle grinding in 4-6 breaks)

III Bolting  
 5 Plan Sifter  
 6. Dust Collector  
 7. Reel



IV Purifying  
 8. Purifier  
 9 Sifter  
 10 Bran Duster  
 (the final purification grain is also ready for sack the)

V Final Products  
 11 Packer

\* Each milling is called a break  
 \*\* The Dybdall mill is unusual in that there are 8 breaks rather than the more 3, 4, 5. Each break is successively finer grinding machinery.  
 \*\*\* Bran is the final product separated after the 1st break - but goes through the same process as flour.





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Cheney

VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Spokane

STATE

Washington

**3 PHOTO REFERENCE**

PHOTO CREDIT

Jacob Thomas

DATE OF PHOTO

July, 1975

NEGATIVE FILED AT

Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission

**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View from the east

PHOTO NO.

1 of 4



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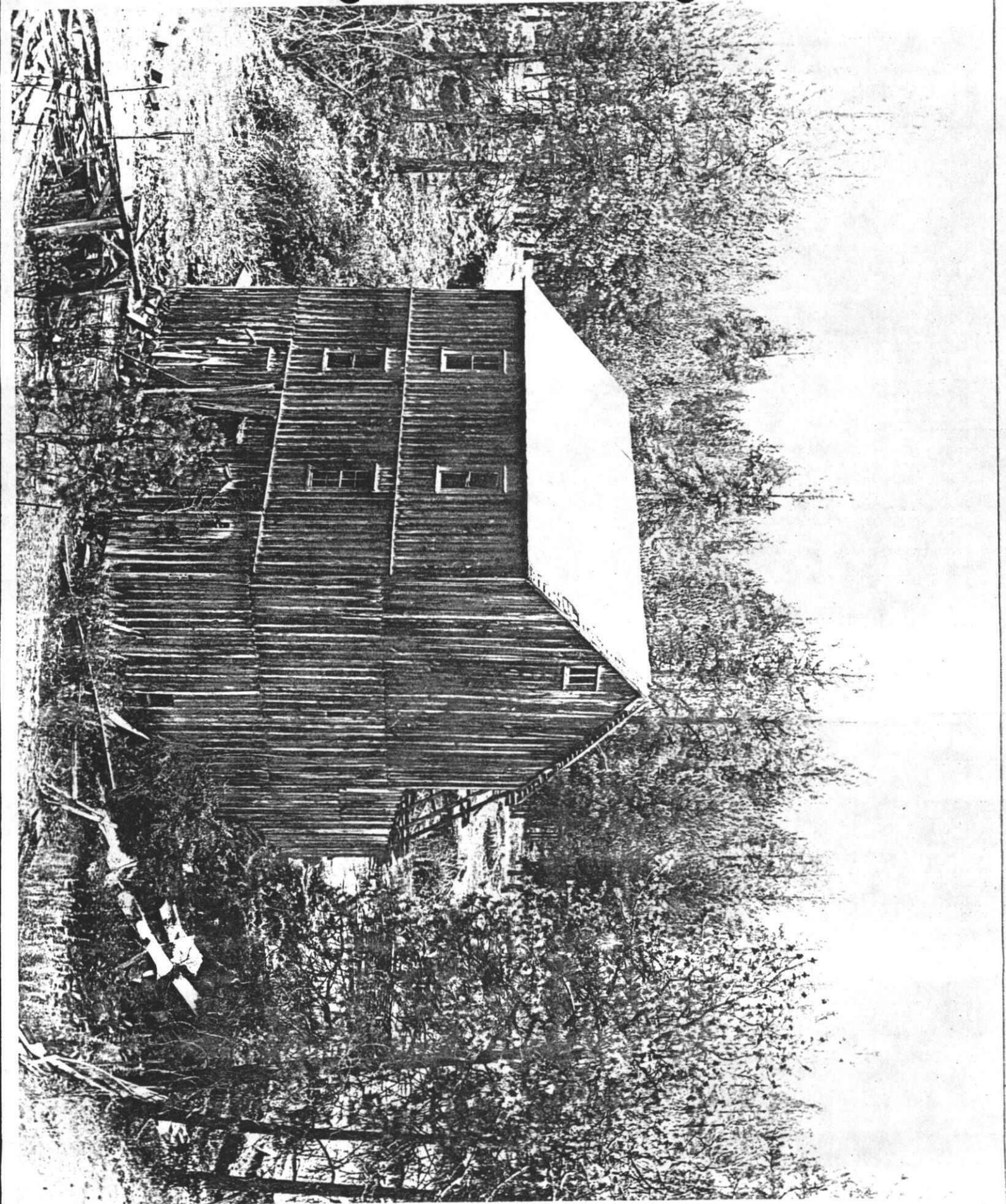
**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT. GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET

View from the west

PHOTO NO.

2 of 4



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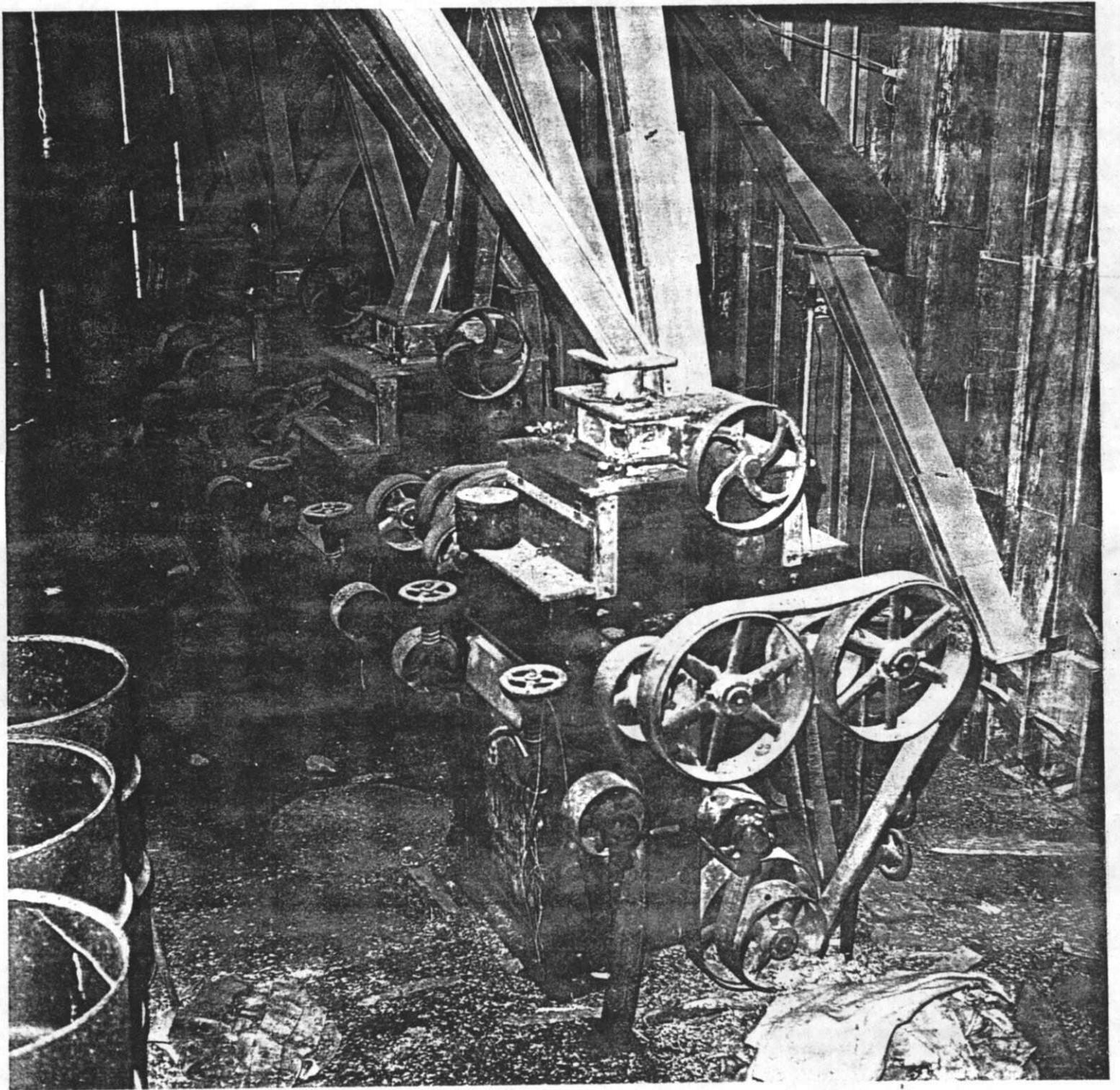
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Four Barnard and Lees two stage roller grinders

PHOTO NO.

3 of 4



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DATE OF PHOTO  
July, 1975

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**4 IDENTIFICATION**

DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET.

Barnard and Lees bran duster

PHOTO NO.  
4 of 4

