VLR-6/21/83 NRHP-1/12/84 NPS Form 10-900 (3-82)

United States Department of the Interior

National Park Service

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms

Type all entries—complete applicable sections	
1. Name	
historic The Mill House (Preferred)	(VHLC 30-659)
and or common Chinn's Mill; Hatcher's Mill	·
2. Location	
S. side U. S. Rte. 50, 1 mi. E of interstreet & number Rte. 713 at Atoka	rsection of U. S. Rte. 50 with Va. $\frac{N/A}{}$ not for publication
city, town Middleburg	
state Virginia code 51 county	Fauquier code 061
3. Classification	
Category — district — public — building(s) — structure — site — object — in process — yes: restricted — yes: unrestricted — yes: unrestricted — yes: unrestricted — yes: unrestricted	Present Use agriculturemuseumcommercialparkeducationalprivate residenceentertainmentreligiousgovernmentscientificindustrialtransportationmilitaryother:
4. Owner of Property	Ethendon oversitätiitiitii suulkajajajaja jähkikon muutikkon oversa ja johkikon valja ja johkikon ja ja johkiko Tari
name Mrs. Evelyn Maddox McConnell	
street & number The Mill House, Box 915	
city, town $\frac{Middleburg}{}$ $\frac{N/A}{}$ vicinity of	state Virginia 22117
5. Location of Legal Descriptio	n
Fauquier County Courthous courthouse, registry of deeds, etc.	s e
N/A	
Warrenton	Virginia 22186 state
6. Representation in Existing S	
title Virginia Hist. Landmarks Commission has this prop	
date 1979 (Survey file no. 30-659)	federal state county local
depository for survey records Virginia Historic Landmarks	Gommission 221 Governor St.
city, town Richmond	state Virginia 23219

7. Description

Condition X excellent deteriorated good ruins fair unexposed	Check one unaltered x altered	Check one original site moved date	N/A		
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Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION SUMMARY

The buildings that comprise the Mill House complex are grouped informally on a gently sloping hillside above the meandering Cromwell's Run. The cluster is set back from U. S. Rte 50 and, except for the gatekeeper's house, is not visible from the highway. Cromwell's Run serves as a boundary for the grouping on their southern, western, and northern sides. Within this area, the grounds are beautifully maintained, with woods along the perimeters and more formal lawns and gardens surrounding the several buildings. All of the buildings in the complex are constructed of stone laid in a random-rubble pattern. Several, including the mill, are of mixed stone and frame construction. All are vernacular in character. While the lawns follow the contours of the gently sloping terrain for the most part, stone walls are used in places for definition and, where necessary, as retaining walls. The complex is approached from U. S. Rte 50 by a hard-surfaced road that runs directly south from the highway until it reaches the mill. The road then divides, with the service road to the house veering to the left and the main approach ascending to the right. This drive passes between the mill and the miller's house and circles around the cooper's house and the stable as it ascends to the main house: the Mill House. Here a large paved area serves for parking and as a turnaround. In general, this entrance drive, which was laid out in 1929, follows the course of the old millrace, which led from an upstream portion of Cromwell's Run to the mill. The grouping is picturesquely informal, though the original layout was determined by practical needs: the miller's house is closest to the mill, the cooper's house is nearby, and the Mill House, belonging to the owner of the complex, is on the highest level, surveying the entire complex. In overall appearance, the Mill House group still gives evidence of its original utilitarian purposes while also subscribing perfectly to the desideratum of its 20th-century incarnation as a picturesque, informally elegant horse-country estate.

DESCRIPTION - INDIVIDUAL BUILDINGS

The Mill House, the centerpiece of the composition, was the residence of the mill owner. The original portion of the Mill House today forms the central block of a greatly expanded building, and although alterations as well as additions have been made, the general disposition of the original fabric can be determined. As first built, the house was a simple, two-story rectangle with a basement, built of locally obtained fieldstone, laid in a random-rubble pattern. The house was, and is, covered with a gable roof, and there are stone chimneys at each gable end. The three bays of each major elevation (the north and south fronts) are irregularly spaced, but the middle bay on each front has a doorway. Both doors are capped with rectangular, four-light transoms. The fenestration on the north front, with 6/9 sash on the first floor and 6/6 sash above, appears to be the original condition; all fenestration on the south front has been enlarged. On the first floor, the windows flanking the door have 10/15 sash. The two windows directly above them have 10/10 sash, and the middle window, above the door, maintains the original 6/6 arrangement. Above, dormer windows have also been added on the south front of the original portion of the house. There is a basement below grade, which is lit by rectangular windows protected with vertical wooden grills. On the north front, a later porch extends across the first floor of the original house and covers a portion of one of the additions as well.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400–1499 1500–1599 1600–1699 _X 1700–1799 _X 1800–1899 _X 1900–	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agriculture architecture art commerce communications	community planning conservation economics education engineering exploration/settlement	landscape architectur law literature military music philosophy politics/government	religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation X other (specify) Equestrian
Specific dates	c. 1800, 1929	Builder/Architect unkno	wn	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Mill House complex is an extraordinarily complete and well-preserved group of structures with two important associations: that of a late 18th- to early 19th-century rural Virginia grist mill operation, and that of a 20th-century "hunt country" estate. In these associations, the Mill House is connected with two important figures in these two very different eras of the history of this portion of Northern Virginia: Leven Powell, who founded the nearby town of Middleburg and probably had constructed many of the buildings in the Mill House complex, and John S. (Jay) Phipps, scion of one of the great industrial fortunes of America's gilded age, and one of the major figures responsible for the present day reputation of the Fauguier-Loudoun county area as a center of affluent country living, centered around equestrianism. In addition to the mill itself, there remain the miller's house, the cooper's house and shop, the mill owner's house (now the centerpiece of the complex), and what was likely a dairy/smokehouse. At present, the mill itself has not been thoroughly investigated to determine its original configuration, but its very existence, coupled with so many subsidiary buildings, makes it an important survival of an early agricultural/industrial complex. After the mill ceased as a viable economic operation, the property took on an entirely new aspect. Jay Phipps purchased the complex in 1924, and under his aegis it was transformed into an impressive country estate. From 1924 to 1929 the work included the enlargement of the mill owner's house to its present proportions, the remodeling and restoration of several of the outbuildings to become guest quarters, the addition of a stable, and a swimming pool. The mill itself was apparently left unchanged, though it had already been altered from its original condition prior to the purchase of the property by Phipps. In addition, careful landscaping was undertaken to tie the various elements together, and changes made in the roadways. That the complex so well displays both aspects of its history - that of an early industrial/agricultural complex and a later country estate - speaks well for the soundness of the original configuration and for the sensitivity demonstrated by those responsible for the 20th-century alterations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The first recorded owner of the property now encompassed in this nomination was Charles Burgess, who obtained it as a land grant in 1731. Burgess later sold the property to Charles Chinn, and it was during his ownership that the first mention of a mill occurs. Page 4 of the Fauquier County Minute Book 1768-72 recorded the order that "On petition of Charles Chinn leave is granted him to erect a water mill on Cromwell Run. It appearing that he has land on both sides of the said run and that the land of no other person will be affected thereby." This permission was obtained at the August 1768 session of the county court. Chinn's will, dated 1788, directed that all his lands "in the counties of Fauquier and Loudoun be sold by (his) executors for cash, tobacco, or slaves." (Fauquier County Will Book 2/125). In 1791, Leven Powell purchased this and other property from Chinn's executors "for 632 pounds current money of Virginia." (Fauquier County Deed Book 10/369). Leven Powell (1737-1810) was perhaps the most notable personage associated with the property. One of Northern Virginia's leading

9. Major Bibli	ographical	Refer	ences		
Fauquier County Deed E house, Warrenton, Virg Richmond, Va., Virgini 30-659, Chinn's Mill; Gott and Russell, Fauq	inia. a Historic Landma Hatcher's Mill; T	urks Commis: The Mill Hou	sion Archives use.	s. Fauquier	County file
0. Geograph	ical Data		,	, , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , ,	
creage of nominated property	47.7636 acres			<u> </u>	
luadrangle name <u>Rectortor</u> TM References			Qua	adrangle scale	1:24000
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erbal boundary description or the Mill House encor esary to insure that the ective woodlands is indist all states and counties	npass the 47+ acr ne pastoral setti cluded. (See also	es owned by ng is maint continuati	the present ained, and to on sheet #6) or county bound	occupant. hat a suffic	This acreage is
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nme/title g. Allen Chambe:			rian date April	8, 1983	
reet & number National Pa) .
ty or town Washington			state D. C.	20240	
2. State Hist	oric Prese	rvatio		r Certif	ication
ne evaluated significance of th		ate is:			
national s the designated State Historic 65), I hereby nominate this projectording to the criteria and pro tate Historic Preservation Office	Preservation Officer for perty for inclusion in the cedures set forth by the er signature	e National Regi e National Park . Dyllu	ster and certify th		
H. Bryan Mitchell, E tle Virginia Historic La			7	date June 21	, 1983
For NPS use only I hereby certify that this pr	operty is included in the	e National Regi	ster		• .
,			<u>, , , c</u>	date	
Keeper of the National Regi	ster				
Attest:		<u> </u>	d	iate	
Chief of Registration					

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7. DESCRIPTION

The interior of the Mill House was undoubtedly a hall-and-parlor arrangement, with fireplaces at each end wall. The partition dividing the first floor into two rooms has been removed, and the space is now one large living room with a fireplace at one end. The staircase, which ascends with winders against the north wall, to the west of the door, may be in its original location but seems to have reworked material in its construction. The exposed joists of the ceiling are original, and their finely beaded edges give every indication that they were originally left exposed, as they are now. Above are bedrooms and a bath.

More than likely, this kitchen, which is now encased in a 20th-century addition, was first connected to the house c. 1840, when the space between it and the house was filled in with a two-story connection, or hyphen. On the first floor this connection now contains the dining room, several steps below the level of the living room in the original portion. The dining room also contains another stair with winders to the second floor and has access to the porch across the north front. To the east of the original kitchen, a new kitchen was built in 1929. This construction relegated the old kitchen to a service area between the new kitchen and the dining room. Above the 1929 addition are servants' bedrooms, reached by yet another stair from the first floor. At the time this east wing was built, the original kitchen walls were heightened, and this connection is now a story-and-a-half high with dormer windows. In addition, the 1929 work encompassed a rectangular bay added to the south side of the dining room, giving additional light to the room and providing a secondary dining area, or breakfast nook.

Even more noticeable than the extensive eastern additions made during this 1929 building campaign were those added to the west of the original block. Photographs taken just prior to this work indicate that some changes had already occured in this general area, but these were removed and in at least one instance, reworked. To the west of the original house, a new two-story block was built. Recessed from the north front, and set several steps below the level of the first floor of the original house, this addition contains the entrance/stair hall. Extending to its west is a frame vestibule or entry, which is topped with a pediment. This feature was apparently removed from the existing west door of the main house and reused at this new location. Completing the 1929 work on the main house was the two-story stone wing directly to the south of the new west wing. This prominent addition contains a living room, or library, on the first floor and a master bedroom suite above. On the first floor, the living room terminates at the southend with a projecting rectangular bay with ranks of windows overlooking the south lawn and swimming pool. Above, a railed deck extends off the master bedroom to cover the projecting bay. Inside, the living room of this wing has a ceiling with exposed joists and a handsome Federal mantel on the west wall. Above, in the master bedroom, there is an elaborately carved mantel with a number of motifs generally associated with folk art. While an interesting piece in its own right, it is not indigenous to the house, nor to this region.

(See continuation sheet # 2)

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7. DESCRIPTION

Concurrent with all the additions and alterations to the main house undertaken in the 1920s were a number of improvements on the grounds and subsidiary buildings. Mention was made of the new approach installed at this time, which leads up the hill to the new west entrance, following the line of the original millrace. The handsome swimming pool, to the south of the new south wing, was also installed at approximately the same time and was as carefully conceived as the additions to the house in an effort to make it harmonize with the existing surroundings. Basically rectangular in shape, the pool is surrounded by natural-appearing flagstone terraces, and to the east, where a grade change occurs in the lawn, it is bordered by a "ledge" of stones and boulders. Though this ledge appears natural at first glance, it is composed of stones selected and brought to the site, and carefully fitted together. Far to the south of the pool, beyond the formal lawn area, can be seen the dam on Cromwell's Run, from which the millrace led to the mill.

The pool area is separated from the lawn behind the main (original) portion of the house, which is embellished with a number of fine specimens of English boxwood. To the east of the boxwoods is the guest house, converted and enlarged from what was most probably a dairy and/or smokehouse located just to the south of the original kitchen. The guest house today consists of three small elements, "telescoped" into each other with differing roof levels. The easternmost element is the smallest and is only one story tall. Because of a change in grade, the western portion is a full two stories tall. As with the main house, the basic construction material of this picturesque cottage is random-rubble fieldstone.

Other subsidiary buildings are grouped informally to the north and west of the Mill House, where the lawn slopes down towards the mill. Directly west of the house is the stone-and-frame stable, built just prior to the major building activity in 1929. The stable, which is built in the shape of the letter "U," has its open forecourt facing the house. Inside are six stalls and feed and tack rooms. Though of relatively recent construction, the stable harmonizes both in design and material with the earlier huildings of the group. To its west, and at a lower level, is the small (12' x 14') stone structure known as the cooper's house. This almost-square building contains one room on the ground floor and a garret above, lit by a later dormer window. It has an enormous fireplace for such a small building, and it is because of this that it is assumed the original use was a combination house and shop for the mill's cooper. In recent years the building was used as a workshop, and the fireplace opening has been closed. Northwest of the main house, and between it and the mill is the structure known as the miller's house. This picturesque building, roughly measuring 25' x 16' and a story-and-a-half tall over a basement, has been renovated to serve as a boys' dormitory, or additional guest house. It has a three-bay facade, and the original main entrance was to the north, facing the mill. The basement, which is partially above grade on the north and west sides, is entered only by way of a door in the west wall.

To the northwest of the miller's house, and separated from it by the entrance road, is the mill itself. The very reason for the existence of the entire complex, the mill is built alongside the small stream known since the 18th century as Cromwell's Run. To the south, the mill is banked into the side of the hill bordering the run.

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7. DESCRIPTION

As the mill was in operation for more than a hundred years, a number of alterations and additions have been made, and the construction history of the building cannot be conclusively determined. Nor, unfortunately, has it been maintained in the 20th century in the prime condition as the other buildings. The oldest portion of the mill is the western, stone end, rising two stories high. Above this is a framed third story covered with a gable roof, with a louvered cupola, or ventilator, astride the ridge. The gable roof also covers a frame addition to the east, and it is from this addition that the mill is entered. This eastern frame section has only two floors enclosed; the lowest level, corresponding to the first floor of the stone section, is of open frame construction. Although the interior of the mill has been used in recent years primarily for storage, a great deal of machinery remains from the late 19th century, complete with labels and patent dates. Much of this roller mill machinery bears the label: "Aug. Heines, patentee and manufacturer, Silver Creek, Chaut. Co. N. Y. 1878, 1888, 1884, 1887." Another piece is labelled: "Cranson Scouring, Polishing, and Separating Machine with magnetic attachments manufactured by Huntley, Cranson & Hammond. 1885, 1881, 1890, 1891 patents."

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Also included in the nominated property is a gatekeeper's house. Built of log and covered with clapboarding, this sotry-and-a-half house is of unknown date. It is located on a rise just to the east of the entrance drive and faces U. S. Rte 50.

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citizens during the Revolutionary and early Federal periods, he had enlisted and equipped his own regiment at the outbreak of the Revolution, and had accompanied Washington at Valley Forge. Ill health forced him to resign his commission in 1788, but his impressive services in the cause of independence earned him an award of 6,000 acres of western land, awarded by the Virginia General Assembly in 1783. Others of Powell's public services included his representation at the Virginia ratification convention in 1788, election as a delegate to the General Assembly in 1779, 1787, 1788, and 1792, and election to the sixth United States Congress in 1799. Not only did he found the town of Middleburg (in 1787, four years before purchasing the nominated property), he was largely responsible for the development of Loudoun and Fauquier counties as prosperous wheat and milling centers. 1 It is in this connection that his association with the Mill House complex is most apparent. In 1807, Powell sold the property to Samuel, Joseph, and Thomas Hatcher. The Hatcher brothers paid 122 pounds, 15 shillings, and 10 pence for the property - - a relatively high price at that time and a reasonable indication that it then contained a number of improvements (buildings). In 1818 the Hatchers sold the property, and it passed through several owners until 1829, when it was purchased by another member of the Hatcher family. In that year, Caleb Rector and Gourley B. Hatcher purchased the property jointly, and in 1832 Hatcher bought out Rector's share to become the sole owner. At the time of the joint purchase (1829), the property was called Berlin Mill, but it soon became known as Hatcher's Mill.

From 1832 until 1881, Gourley Hatcher paid taxes on the property, and the differing sums assessed for buildings during his ownership indicate that he was responsible for a number of them. Between 1881 and 1924 the property, then consisting of approximately fifty acres, and referred to as Hatcher's Mill in the deed books, changes hands again several times. Much of the equipment still in the mill bears patent dates from this period, and it is known that the mill was in operation then. In 1924 the property was purchased by John S. (Jay) Phipps of Long Island, New York, who bought it to serve as a "hunting box" for himself and his friends. Phipps, an enormously wealthy steel and realestate magnate, was the son of Henry Phipps, who had been a partner of Andrew Carnegie in several of his iron and steel companies during the late 19th- and early 20th-centuries. After Carnegie's retirement, the elder Phipps helped reorganize the several companies into the mammoth United States Steel Corporation. Henry Phipps, a native of England, moved with his family to AlleghenymCity, Pa., where they became next-door neighbors of the Carnegie family. Phipps later moved to Long Island, where he died in 1930.2 His son, who inherited a portion of his father's estate and added greatly to it, served as a director of the United States Steel Company, the Grace Steamship Lines, and the Guaranty Trust Company. In 1906, the younger Phipps built "Westbury House," the Long Island landmark now known (and open to the public) as "Old Westbury Gardens." Designed by English architect George A. Crawley, the impressive Georgian mansion is surrounded by more than 100 acres of landscaped gardens in Nassau County; and remains one of the grandest statements of the "Gold Coast" of Long Island's northern shore. 3 For his Virginia retreat, Phipps intended, and achieved, a far less formal or imposing complex, but one that nonetheless reflects its purpose and era equally well. Actually, the renaissance of the Middleburg area as a center for the pursuit of horseracing and foxhunting had begun at least two decades prior to Phipps! purchase of the nominated property. In 1904 several New Yorkers had leased an inn in the town to serve as a clubhouse, and in 1906 the Middleburg Hunt was organized. 4 During the next decade or two, a number of members of this new social

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set began to purchase and restore a number of the farms surrounding Middleburg and nearby Upperville. Others built anew, but Phipps took yet another course - - that of buying the mill complex and transforming what had been essentially an early industrial complex into a country estate. Unfortunately, the architect (or architects) responsible for this eminently successful conversion is unknown. To the main house, wings were added at both ends, more than doubling the size of the original fabric. All stonework in the additions was carefully laid to match the random-rubble pattern of the original building. In addition, what was most probably a dairy/smokehouse just south of the old kitchen was converted into a guest house. Phipps was also responsible for the building of the stone-and-frame stable, to the west of the main house, and for changing the approach to the complex. A new drive was constructed on the line of the old millrace, creating a longer, more picturesque approach to the house than had previously existed. Not the least impressive of the changes that transformed the former mill property into an elegant country estate was the swimming pool - - located to the south of the west wing of the main house. The hole was dug "with a donkey and a bucket," 5 and the pool is reputedly the oldest in the county. It was consciously designed to blend in with the gently sloping, stony landscape. A number of large rocks and boulders were placed alongside the pool to make it appear as if this was, more or less, a natural feature.

After Jay Phipps' death, the property was inherited by his son, Hubert Phipps, who held the estate only from 1957 to 1964. After an interim ownership of two different individuals, Mrs. Evelyn Maddox McConnell, who has lived at the Mill House since 1971, obtained title. The Mill House continues to be maintained in excellent condition, and continues to exemplify both the early beginnings of the complex as an industrial enterprise and its later transformation as a handsome country estate.

SAC

Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission staff, <u>Middleburg Historic District</u> (Richmond, 1981). (National Register of Historic Places nomination form). This gives additional information on Powell and on the early agricultural history of the area.

² Myer, Adolph, "Henry Phipps," in <u>Dictionary of American Biography</u> (New York, 1934), pp. 550, 551.

³ Smith, Raymond W., <u>Old Westbury Gardens</u> (Albany, 1976). (National Register of Historic Places nomination form).

⁴ <u>Middleburg Historic District</u> (see footnote 1 above) gives additional information on the early 20th-century development of the Middleburg area as a center of affluent country estates.

⁵ Mrs. Evelyn Maddox McConnell, interview, June, 1982. (Mrs. McConnell, the current owner of the Mill House, related this as traditional lore in the county.)

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10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

Verbal Boundary Description:

Beginning at a point on S side of U. S. Rte 50 at the intersection of said route with the center line of Hatchers Mill Road, about 1,750' SE of the intersection with VA 611; thence extending about 992' SE along said side; thence about 684' SW; thence about 91' SE; thence about 897' SW; thence about 1,361' NW to center line of Hatchers Mill Road; thence about 1,781' NE along center line of said road to point of origin. Based on April 1964 plat (tract 11), included with this nomination.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Albany, New York. Raymond W. Smith. "Old Westbury Gardens," 1976. (National Register of Historic Places nomination form).

McConnell, Evelyn Maddox. Interview, June 1982.

Myer, Adolph. Dictionary of American Biography. New York, 1934.

Richmond, Va. Virginia Historic Landmarks Commission Staff. "Middleburg Historic District," 1981. (National Register of Historic Places nomination form).

