

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

VLR 3/8/6  
NRHP 4/20/6

### NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

#### 1. Name of Property

historic name Breneman/Turner Mill

other names/site number DHR File No. 082-0023

#### 2. Location

street & number 5036 Turners Mill Lane not for publication N/A

city or town Harrisonburg vicinity X

state Virginia code VA county Rockingham code 165 Zip 22802

#### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. (    See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Walter Alton  
Signature of certifying official

3/13/2006  
Date

Virginia Department of Historic Resources  
State or Federal agency and bureau

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

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of commenting or other official Date

\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

#### 4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:

    entered in the National Register

    See continuation sheet.

    determined eligible for the

    See continuation sheet.

    determined not eligible for the National Register

    removed from the National Register

    other (explain): \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
Signature of Keeper

\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

**5. Classification**

**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**

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	buildings
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	sites
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	structures
<u>  0  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	objects
<u>  1  </u>	<u>  0  </u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register   0  

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION  

Sub:   Manufacturing Facility: Mill  

**Current Functions** (Enter categories from instructions)

Cat:   VACANT/NOT IN USE  

Sub: \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification** (Enter categories from instructions)

  EARLY REPUBLIC: Federal  

**Materials** (Enter categories from instructions)

foundation   STONE: Limestone  

roof   METAL: Tin  

walls   BRICK  

  WOOD  

other   METAL: Cast iron  

**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.)

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or a 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** circa 1800 – 1956

**Significant Dates** \_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person** (Complete if Criterion B is marked above) N/A

**Cultural Affiliation** N/A

**Architect/Builder** Abraham Breneman

**Narrative Statement of Significance** (Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

**9. Major Bibliographical References**

**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**

U. S. Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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

Name of repository: Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, Virginia

**10. Geographical Data**

Acreeage of Property 1.12 acres

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

Quad Map Name: Singers Glen

Zone	Easting	Northing	Zone	Easting	Northing	
1	<u>17</u>	<u>685220</u>	<u>4266020</u>	2	<u>          </u>	<u>          </u> See continuation sheet.

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: Darryl Nash, Kenneth Weaver, Steven Shenk  
organization: James Madison University & Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center date November 2005  
street & number: 711 Garbers Church Road, P. O. Box 1563 telephone 540-438-1275  
city or town Harrisonburg state VA zip code 22803

**Additional Documentation**

Submit the following items with the completed form:

**Continuation Sheets**

**Maps** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.

A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

**Photographs** Representative black and white photographs of the property.

**Additional items** (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

**Property Owner**

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

name Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center  
street & number P. O. Box 1563, 711 Garbers Church Road telephone 540-438-1275  
city or town Harrisonburg state VA zip code 22803

**Paperwork Reduction Act Statement:** This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

**Estimated Burden Statement:** Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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**Breneman/Turner Mill  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

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**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION**

Breneman/Turner Mill is a two-and-a-half-story, brick, water-powered gristmill on a stone basement. Built circa 1800 in the Federal style for Abraham Breneman, it is located 3.4 miles north of Harrisonburg, exactly one mile west of Rt. 42 on Breneman Church Road. It operated as a gristmill from circa 1800 until 1988.

A water wheel, 16 feet in diameter and five feet wide, is mounted at the west end of the south wall. Containing three sets of burr stones, the mill was originally powered from a millpond which was served by a millrace that brought water from Linville Creek. The flow of water could be regulated from inside the mill by a gate controlled from the “ship’s wheel” on the first floor. The millpond was washed out in a flood at the turn of the 20<sup>th</sup> century, but the millrace continued to provide adequate water from Linville Creek for the mill.

**ARCHITECTURAL ANALYSIS**

Design, materials and workmanship show excellent craftsmanship, which contributed to the mill’s survival beyond the many other wooden mills of the area. The forty-foot-by-thirty-foot building has a native limestone foundation and basement walls. The exterior load-bearing walls of the first and second floors are made of brick, while the interior structure is made of timbers that were milled, hand-planed and carved. The bricks are laid in Flemish bond, with a wall thickness of five bricks at the top of the stone basement and three bricks at the roof.

The 22-inch-thick stone walls of the basement enclose gears, belts, wheels and other devices that provided the mill with power. The associated wheel mechanisms in the basement consume an area of 26 feet by 8 feet. Placed in opposing corners are two 15-foot-long axles that draw power from the water wheel via a system of belts. In the northeast corner of the basement lies a hearth constructed into the stone foundation. This fireplace produced heat. Branding irons used to mark flour barrels were probably heated in this fireplace. The two windows and a small door on the east wall provide some light. However, the basement remains fairly dark, as the only other gaps in the stone are from the axle of the water wheel along the south wall and a 2½-foot-wide ventilation gap on the west wall. Also in the basement is the bottom end of six pairs of wooden grain elevators that run throughout the different levels of the building.

The first floor contains many interesting features of the mill. On a raised platform in the southwest corner rests two large French burr millstones and a smaller millstone for processing buckwheat. “Picking hammers” were used to sharpen the stones so they would cut the grain, rather than mash it. There is also a crane device for removing the heavy grindstones to make them accessible for cleaning and sharpening.  
J.H.

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Turner, who owned and operated the mill from 1933 to 1988, reported that he still used a “French Burr grinding stone” which he estimated was over 100 years old. “They never wear out,” he said.<sup>1</sup>

Next to the three millstones is a hominy mill that is run by belts connected to the machinery in the basement. In addition to the grain elevators that run up from the basement, the first floor also hosts another grain elevator, located near the southwest corner. The three large beams supporting the second floor are themselves supported by a variation of comparably large timber posts or smaller steel posts. The first floor has eight windows and a door on each wall except to the south, where the water wheel rests. The south wall is also the site of a serious bulge in the outer brickwork, possibly the result of a vibration from the wheel or the undermining of the foundation due to the introduction of water under it from the millrace. Lastly, the first floor also contains an office. Heated by a cast-iron coal stove, the office is about 10 feet by 9 feet and occupies the northeast corner of the mill, enclosing the chimney. Outside of the office are located various tools used to tie up and secure the grain sacks.

The first floor is where the grain was weighed as the farmers unloaded at the east end of the mill. The dirt road that now passes along this side of the mill used to be the main road, which has been moved to the west side of the mill property. Platform scales are located here. Bags of flour, corn, wheat, barley, oats and rye were weighed as they arrived. After being weighed, the grain was dumped into a bin before it was milled and routed into the storage bins, where bagging occurred.

The second floor consists of more open space than the first. Although the floor hosts large hopper structures positioned on the south wall, there is little else. Various machinery for crushing corn cobs, which were used as hog feed, and cleaning and mixing the grain were brought in over the years. The grain elevators and chutes that appear on the first two floors travel up through the second as well. The elevators, made of wood, were used to carry wheat, flour, bran, shorts and other materials from one process to another. Each elevator consisted of metal cups attached to a belt. Each cup held about one-and-a-half pints and was spaced about one foot apart. Brushes or “bug chasers” could be installed on each belt to keep the legs clean and free from vermin. The fenestration changes slightly on the second story to include two additional windows on the north wall, and the east wall has a door, presumably to help with lifting grain or flour from farmers’ carts to different stories of the building.

The third level, or half story, located under the roof, consists of one milling machine and a number of ropes, belts and pulleys to aid in the heavy lifting associated with the mill. The milling machine is called a centrifugal wheel that was used for cleaning buckwheat. It is ten feet long and two feet wide. Inside is a circular drum on which bolting cloth was attached. Bolting cloth was a silk screen through which the finished flour passed, holding back coarse material from the gristmill. This screening cloth was fastened to wooden spiders of the reel. Ground buckwheat entered the higher end from the stone, passed through a screen into a conveyor and was taken by elevator to the bins and bagged.

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Running from top to bottom, the drive system of the mill is a quite clever design that makes a lot of practical use out of water power. The ceiling of the roof is gabled with masterful dovetailing and pegging in the collars and lap joints with pegging connecting the rafters. The mill is presently covered with a metal roof and is marked by two small dormers facing north and south.

The mill was built circa 1800 as a water-powered gristmill, and during J. Howard Turner's ownership (1933-1988) it was operated primarily as a gristmill, using Linville Creek as the source for water power. In 1973 Turner said, "I imagine I'm running the mill just about the way it was when it was built by Abraham Breneman." Turner was not insensitive to the historical value. "I guess," he said, "that's one of the main reasons I've continued to operate the mill and keep it in shape. There aren't many operating mills still around, and in a few years people will appreciate even more being able to see one in working condition."<sup>2</sup>

After the Civil War, most of the old-time stone burr mills were converted to roller mills.<sup>3</sup> There is evidence that at one point there was a roller mill installed on the second floor, and some components remain but the roller mill itself was removed.<sup>4</sup> Turner's commitment was to operate the mill as a gristmill, both to maintain the mill's historical technology and also because of his preference for stone-ground flour. He discounted the quality of steel-rolled flour, saying, "Nothing makes better flour. Nothing beats stone to grind on."<sup>5</sup>

The current "over shot" water wheel is reported to have been installed in the 1920s. It replaced the earlier "under shot" wheel. It may have happened at the time of the switch from the "Ellicott drive" system, mentioned below.

Millwright Derek Ogden, a consultant to the mill's restoration, suggests that initially the water power was transferred to the grinding stones by an "Ellicott drive," having all wooden shafts and gearing. Around 1900 this system was changed in the milling industry to a system that used belt drives, which are present today in Turner's Mill. Numerous holes and cuttings of the original structure are evident to allow the belts to pass from the basement to the upper floors of this mill.<sup>6</sup>

The grain and flour were moved from floor to floor by various methods over the years. An outside sack-chain hoist, also operated by water power, was initially used to lift bags of grain to the upper floors. This system is still in place. There is evidence that in the very early stages, an internal barrel-hoist system lifted barrels of flour through open spaces in the floors near the middle of the building. The openings in the floors were closed when grain elevators were installed to move grain and flour from floor to floor and/or into machinery. Several of the special barrels are still there.

A grain and seed cleaner and a centrifugal dressing machine are examples of machinery that are currently

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present but were not part of the original gristmill operation. At some point, small “pony stones” were installed next to the larger stones. Millwright Ogden suggests this may have happened at the time that the  
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switch was made to the “new-process” system of milling. It would have been used to grind the inner white part of the kernel after the bran (outer layers of the kernel) had been removed by the grinding process, using the two larger stones for grain only. Turner used these “pony stones” for grinding buckwheat or for graham flour or as part of the operation of a hominy mill, which he added for the production of hominy grits.<sup>7</sup>

A D.C. electric generator was installed in the basement at some point. It was powered by a belt from the water wheel as well. A date for the switch to public A.C. current is not known.

**ENDNOTES**

- 1 Janet Baugher Downs, Earl Downs, Pat Turner Ritchie, Mills of Rockingham County, Vol. I (Dayton, Virginia: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, 1997), p. 37.
- 2 *Ibid.*
- 3 Nancy B. Hess, The Heartland: Rockingham County (Harrisonburg, Virginia: Park View Press, 1996), p. 45.
- 4 Turner’s Mill of Rockingham County: Report of Findings by Derek Ogden, Millwright (2004), p. 12.
- 5 Mills, p. 40.
- 6 Turner’s Mill of Rockingham County: Report of Findings, pp. 1-2.
- 7 James Turner, interview by James Madison University students Carl Childs and Aaron Fultz for a research project, Feb. 17, 1991.



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**Breneman/Turner Mill  
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**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

Breneman/Turner Mill is the oldest surviving, fully equipped, pre-Civil War gristmill existing in Rockingham County, Virginia. It survived General Phil Sheridan's burning of the Valley in 1864. Built about 1800 for Abraham Breneman, the mill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places under Criterion A in industry for its representation of late-eighteenth- and early-nineteenth-century mill design and technology. It is also eligible for Criterion C in architecture as a rare brick mill in Rockingham County that has maintained its integrity for over two hundred years.

**HISTORICAL BACKGROUND**

**Agricultural Economy**

Breneman/Turner Mill is a classic example of a building that was central to the local economy. Mills were an integral part of a farmer's life. Farmers relied on the mills to grind their grain into flour or cornmeal, to grind feed grain for the livestock and as a community meeting place to talk about the news of the day, including religion and politics. In the early 1800s, flour was the main export of the East Coast. The Shenandoah Valley was Virginia's largest flour-producing region.

The Knights of the Golden Horseshoe were the first explorers to cross the Blue Ridge Mountains and discover the Shenandoah Valley. They entered what is now Rockingham County via Swift Run Gap above Elkton in 1716. Rockingham County, located in the heart of the Shenandoah Valley, was formed in 1777 by an act of the Virginia General Assembly that was signed by Governor Patrick Henry.<sup>1</sup>

Adam Miller, a native of Germany living in Williamsburg, Virginia, upon hearing the reports from the Knights, followed their trail and settled on the Shenandoah River. The soils found in Rockingham are well suited to growing wheat, corn and other cereals. From the earliest times the chief business interest of Rockingham County was centered in agriculture and raising livestock. Rockingham's preeminence in farming is due to two factors—population and soil fertility. Many of the farm owners were of German descent. They were thrifty, frugal and industrious.<sup>2</sup>

Gristmills were built very soon after settlement, and it was not long until each neighborhood was provided with a gristmill of its own, powered by water from one of the many small swift streams.<sup>3</sup> It is not known how many were built, but as late as 1900 there were still as many as 40 of them operating in Rockingham County.<sup>4</sup> By 1924 agriculture was still of primary importance, surpassing manufacturing in total capital invested, value of products and number of persons employed. In 1924, flour milling was the

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most important industry in Rockingham County, with 24 mills in operation.<sup>5</sup>

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The Breneman/Turner Mill, as a pre-Civil War mill that is still fully equipped, with three gristmill units, represents the primary industry of the pioneer era, the grinding and flour-making aspect of agriculture. "In 1864 the Shenandoah Valley was already noted far and wide for its vast wheat harvests...Barrels of flour produced in the multitude of mills along the rivers and streams west of the Blue Ridge had lined the docks of Alexandria and Baltimore before the war."<sup>6</sup> It is the only such property remaining in Rockingham County.

**The Brenemans and the Mill**

The Breneman family traces their roots back to Melchior Breneman of Canton Bern, Switzerland, who was imprisoned for his religious beliefs in the 17<sup>th</sup> century. The Brenemans were Anabaptists or Mennonites (from leader Menno Simons) and opposed a state church, refused to take oaths or bear arms, and insisted on adult baptism. These beliefs led to persecution that included execution, imprisonment or exile.

His sons Melchior and Christian eventually fled Europe and settled in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, in the early 1700s. Melchior had a son, Melchior Jr., and a grandson, Abraham Breneman, born in 1744. As more settlers arrived, Abraham moved south with two of his brothers, looking for new land to settle. Abraham was part of the Pennsylvania German migration of Mennonites into the Shenandoah Valley that occurred during the 18<sup>th</sup> century.<sup>7</sup>

The first Mennonite settlers in Virginia came possibly as early as 1727, following the geological highway from Pennsylvania. They came originally to areas now known as the counties of Frederick, Shenandoah and Page. A large number of Mennonites joined the "Mennonite Baptist" church and left for Ohio. Others of the small number of Mennonites in northwestern Virginia eventually disappeared, either joining the Baptists or other denominations or migrating elsewhere. Others also came from Pennsylvania and settled southwest of Broadway and east of Timberville in Rockingham County. Over a long period of time the Mennonite settlements in the counties of Shenandoah, Frederick and Page diminished, but in the counties of Rockingham and Augusta they began to flourish. Abraham Breneman was part of this settlement pattern and contributed to the agricultural economy of the Valley when he built his mill. In about 1770, he settled near Edom on Linville Creek on a single tract of about 800 acres.<sup>8</sup>

Abraham married Mary Reiff, who passed away in 1788, and later married Magdalena Shank, fathering a total of 16 children between the two women. Abraham and Mary settled in Edom, Rockingham County, on Linville Creek sometime in the 1770s. The name Linville comes from William Linville, purchaser of about 12,000 acres of land in the area. He sold the land to Josiah Boone and Josiah Davidson, who in turn sold land to the first Mennonites in the Linville Creek/Edom area. Some of the earliest settlers arrived in

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the area in 1758. The 1785 Rockingham County census lists Abraham as owner of a dwelling and three other

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houses. Abraham regularly held church services at his house and donated ground for a Mennonite church that bore his name until 1901. Land tax books indicate that by 1797 improvements had been made to his property that caused a significant jump in its value. Oral tradition holds that the mill was built around 1800 by Abraham and his son Melchior, so the date is consistent with the construction of the grist and flour mill.<sup>9</sup>

Abraham passed the mill on to his children when he died in 1815, and in May 1849 they sold it to George Shaver. According to local folklore, during the Civil War, Federal soldiers came several times to burn the mill, but one account reports that when they discovered sickness in the home, they were sympathetic and moved on without setting it on fire. Another account holds that soldiers set fire to a wooden addition, but the Shavers were alerted and able to extinguish the flames. Another theory is that the Shavers were seen as Union sympathizers by the invading army and the Federals left them alone. A group of Union troops later in the day set fire to a nearby barn. "Flaming material blew toward the mill and reignited it. At that point [Mrs. Shaver] seized the old tin alarm horn and blew it for all she was worth." Neighbors assisted in saving the mill.<sup>10</sup> The stories could have been explanations as to why no buildings on the Shaver farm had been destroyed. Tax records for the years 1863-65 also show that the value of the Shaver farm did not decrease significantly enough to show any loss in farm buildings.<sup>11</sup>

The Mennonite community embraced their social role as outsiders and nonconformists. Early Mennonite objection to slavery appeared and they generally held that slavery was sinful because "all are free in Christ." They abstained from slaveholding and became conscientious objectors during the Civil War. Amid military campaigns of the war, Mennonites refused to hire slaves unless they received wages and they affirmed what they called their "creed and discipline" prohibiting slavery. In March, 1862 the Confederacy passed legislation exempting "from military duty persons prevented from bearing arms by the tenets of the church to which they belong on condition of paying \$500 and 2 percent on the assessed value of their taxable property, taking an oath to sustain the Confederate government and not in any way to give aid or comfort to the enemies of the Confederate government." There is no record that the Shavers paid this fee, but it is almost certain that they opposed slavery as well as the war. While southerners increasingly rallied to slavery's defense, Mennonites retained opposition to bondage as a distinct line between themselves and the world.<sup>12,13</sup>

After the Shavers, the mill passed through a succession of owners, including members of the Shirey, Schaeffer, Swank, Hawse, Rhodes and Stultz families.<sup>14</sup> In 1933 John Stultz sold the mill to J. Howard Turner, who continued to operate the mill until he died in 1988. In 2003 the Turner family donated the mill to the Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center.<sup>15</sup>

The Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center is committed to the mill's preservation. The Heritage

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Rockingham County, Virginia

Center has built a stabilizing structure for the bulging south wall and is making plans to have it rebuilt.  
The

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intention is to refurbish the gristmill equipment for occasional operation as part of special events and educational purposes. Consideration is also being given to some archaeological investigations around the mill building, especially on the west end, where there is evidence of a frame structure used as part of the early flour production activity.

The Heritage Center is making this application in the hopes of restoring and re-opening the mill for grinding demonstrations and historical interpretation.

ENDNOTES

- 1 Janet Baugher Downs, Earl Downs, Pat Turner Ritchie, Rockingham County Geography Supplement (1924) as it appears in Mills of Rockingham County, Vol. IV (Dayton, Virginia: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, 1997), p. 658.
- 2 Mills, pp. 658-59.
- 3 Mills, p. iii.
- 4 Nancy B. Hess, The Heartland: Rockingham County (Harrisonburg, Virginia: Park View Press, 1976), p. 45.
- 5 Mills, p. 660.
- 6 John L. Heatwole, The Burning: Sheridan's Devastation of the Shenandoah Valley. (Charlottesville, Virginia: Rockbridge Publications, 1998), p. 2.
- 7 Charles David Breneman, A History of the Descendants of Abraham Breneman (Kokomo, Indiana: Selby Publishing & Printing, 1939), pp. x-xiii & 1.
- 8 History, p. 1.
- 9 Rockingham County Land and Tax Books (1790-1865) and Burnt Deed Books (1794-1813).
- 10 The Burning, p. 162.
- 11 Rockingham County Land and Tax Books and Burnt Deed Books.
- 12 David Rodes, Norman Wenger, Emmert Bittinger, Unionists and the Civil War Experience in the Shenandoah Valley, Vol. 1 (Harrisonburg, Virginia: Valley Research Associates and Valley Brethren-Mennonite Heritage Center, 2003), p. 7.
- 13 The Burning, pp. 3-4.
- 14 Mills, p. 41.
- 15 Mills, p. 129.

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- Breneman Family Records. Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society. Dayton, Virginia.
- Downs, Janet Baugher, Earl J. Downs, Pat Turner Ritchie, editors. Mills of Rockingham County, Vol. I, II, III, IV. Dayton, Virginia: Harrisonburg-Rockingham Historical Society, 1997.
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**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Breneman/Turner Mill  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

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**Section   Photographs   Page  11**

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United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet

Breneman/Turner Mill  
Rockingham County, Virginia

**All photographs are of: Breneman/Turner Mill**  
**Location: Rockingham County, Virginia**  
**DHR File No.: 082-0023**  
**Photographer: Jim Bishop**

**All negatives are stored at the Department of Historic Resources in Richmond, Virginia.**

DATE: 2005  
VIEW OF: The mill from Turners Mill Lane; northwest corner of the building  
NEG. NO.: 22594:11  
PHOTO: 1 OF 14

DATE: 2005  
VIEW OF: The mill's northeast corner, showing front and four-story east end  
NEG. NO.: 22594:18  
PHOTO: 2 OF 14

DATE: 2005  
VIEW OF: The mill in broader context; south elevation and southwest corner  
NEG. NO.: 22594:3  
PHOTO: 3 OF 14

DATE: 2005  
VIEW OF: The mill from the southeast corner  
NEG. NO.: 22594:20  
PHOTO: 4 OF 14

DATE: 2005  
VIEW OF: Close up of southwest corner of the building, showing metal conduit to water wheel  
and current bracing for bulging wall  
NEG. NO.: 22594:4  
PHOTO: 5 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: South elevation of mill with water wheel and braced fractured wall  
NEG. NO.: 22635:3  
PHOTO: 6 OF 14

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Breneman/Turner Mill  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: Entrance door; interior view  
NEG. NO.: 22635:24  
PHOTO: 7 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: Grist mill with silent feed mechanism  
NEG. NO.: 22635:18  
PHOTO: 8 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: Oscillating sifter adjacent to burr stones  
NEG. NO.: 22635:15  
PHOTO: 9 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: Pony stone in front of a regular sized set of burr stones  
NEG. NO.: 22635:11  
PHOTO: 10 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: View of all three burr stone/grist mill sets of stones with hominy mill in foreground  
NEG. NO.: 22635:12  
PHOTO: 11 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: Hominy mill  
NEG. NO.: 22635:6  
PHOTO: 12 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: Bank of six elevators serving all floors including basement  
NEG. NO.: 22635:13  
PHOTO: 13 OF 14

DATE: December 2005  
VIEW OF: Iron gear mounted on shaft of the waterwheel and belt drives to some of the  
equipment  
NEG. NO.: 22635:5  
PHOTO: 14 OF 14



**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

**National Register of Historic Places  
Continuation Sheet**

**Breneman/Turner Mill  
Rockingham County, Virginia**

**GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

**Verbal Boundary Description**

The boundary includes the immediate area surrounding the mill and portion of millrace that still exists, amounting to 1.12 acres. The eastern boundary contains a private service road. Route 778, known as Breneman Church Road, borders the western boundary, crossing the historic millrace. Route 706, Turners Mill Lane, is the northern property boundary. The southern land boundary is an open grass area adjacent to a privately owned small park-like area. The tax parcel plat maps included show the 1.12-acre property to be known as 78-A-96B.

**Boundary Justification**

The boundaries in this nomination enclose the minimum space necessary to protect the mill from encroachment and to allow for realistic interpretation of the site and milling activities associated with it.

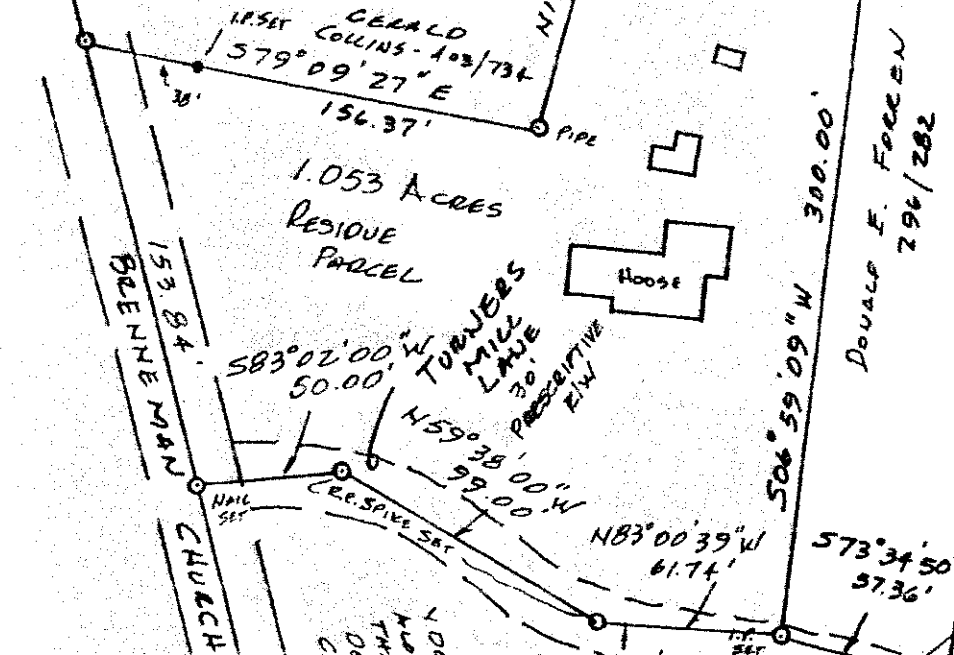
DIVISION OF TAX PARCEL # 78-A-96  
 LINNIE MACISTRIAL DISTRICT  
 ROCKINGHAM COUNTY, VIRGINIA

HARRY A. BRANK  
 296/282

SCALE: 1"=50'  
 DATE: 22 JAN 03

SEE WILL OF J. HOWARD TURNER @  
 WB 48/15 - LIFETIME RIGHT TO  
 DOROTHY A. TURNER, THEN TO  
 ALICE FORREN, ELIJA COLLINS,  
 SUE ANN PAINTER & JAMES  
 TURNER, WILL OF DOROTHY  
 A. TURNER @ WILL 2001-291  
 GIVES ALL TO ABOVE CHILDREN.

78-A-L96B

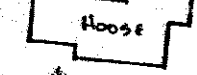


Somebody  
 Property has  
 Right to  
 Well  
 296/282

1.053 Acres  
 RESIDUE  
 PARCEL

BRENNEMAN  
 CHURCH  
 ROAD

TURNERS  
 MILL  
 LAKE  
 PRESERVATIVE  
 E/W



1.120 Ac.

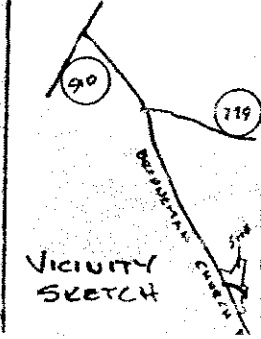
1 DOT OBTAINED SIGNATURES OF OWNER'S  
 KATE BARNUM TO NEW ROAD REOPENED  
 HOME DID, BUT THEY SIGNED FORMS WITH  
 THEY DID NOT. THIS WAS PRESERVATIVE E/W.  
 Church Road as West  
 property line  
 Church Road  
 N 14° 42' 51\" W 548.54'

THE SURVEYED PARCELS  
 ARE ALL OF TAX PARCEL  
 # 78-A-96. IT IS THE  
 RESIDUE OF THE 7 ACRE  
 PARCEL CONVEYED TO  
 J. HOWARD TURNER @  
 154/571. THAT DEED WAS  
 TRACED BACK TO 20/545  
 BUT NO METES & BOUNDS  
 DESCRIPTION WAS FOUND.  
 THE ADJOINING OWNER'S  
 DEEDS WERE USED TO  
 CALCULATE THE BOUNDARY  
 SHOWN. THE PROPERTY IS  
 ZONED A1. THIS DIVISION IS  
 MADE UNDER COUNTY

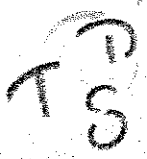
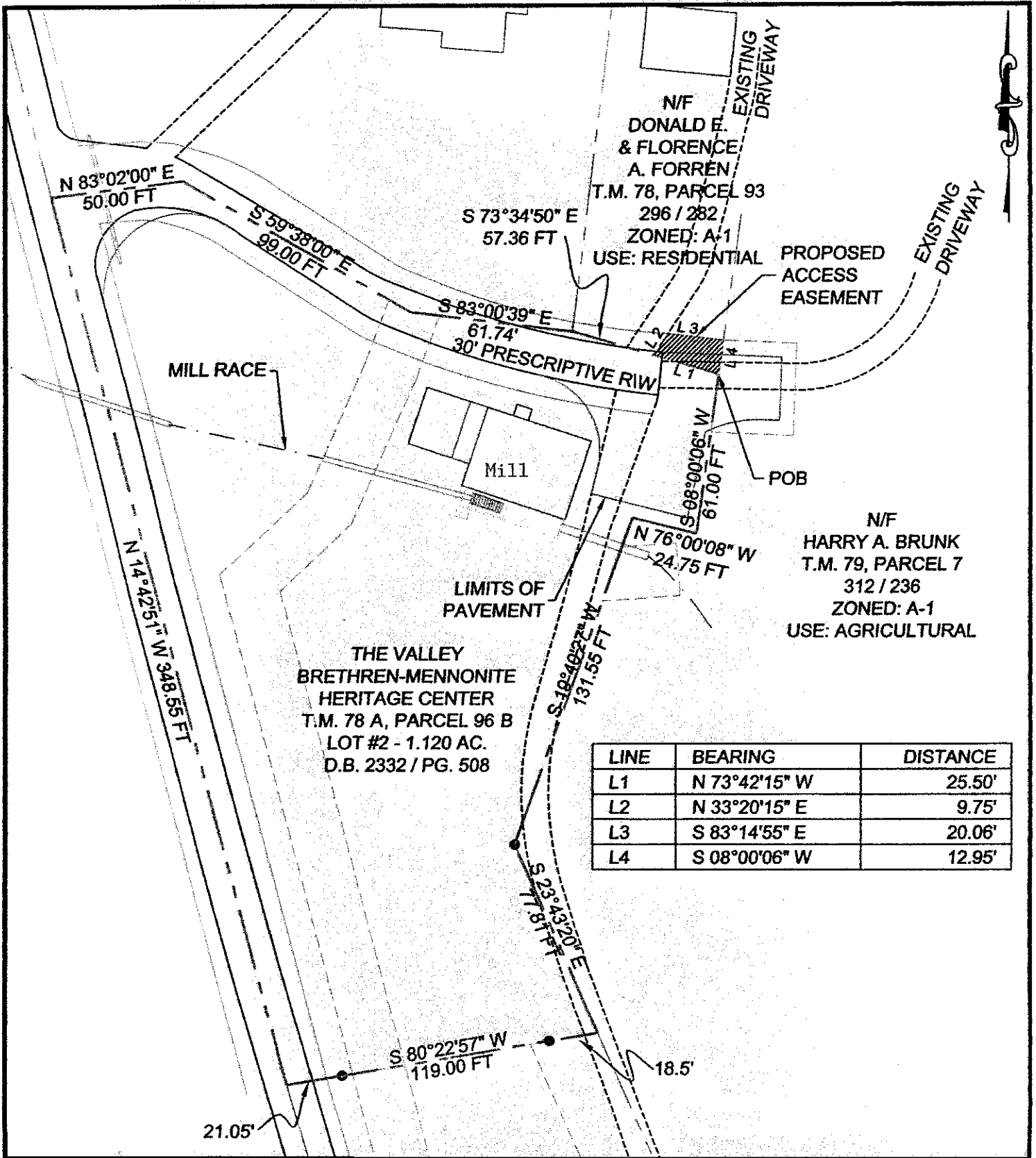
THERE ARE NO  
 BUILDINGS WITHIN  
 35' OF NEW PROPERTY  
 LINES EXCEPT AS  
 SHOWN.

HARRY A. BRANK - 312/296

78-A-96



DONALD E. FORREN  
 109/664



**Terra Development Services, L.L.C.**  
A Land Development Service Company  
9864 Spotswood Trail, Manassas, Virginia 22040  
Phone: 540-265-3337, Fax: 265-3292

**PLAT OF ACCESS EASEMENT**  
Donald E. & Florence A. Forren  
T.M. 78, Parcel 93  
D.B. 296 PG 282  
Linville District, Rockingham County

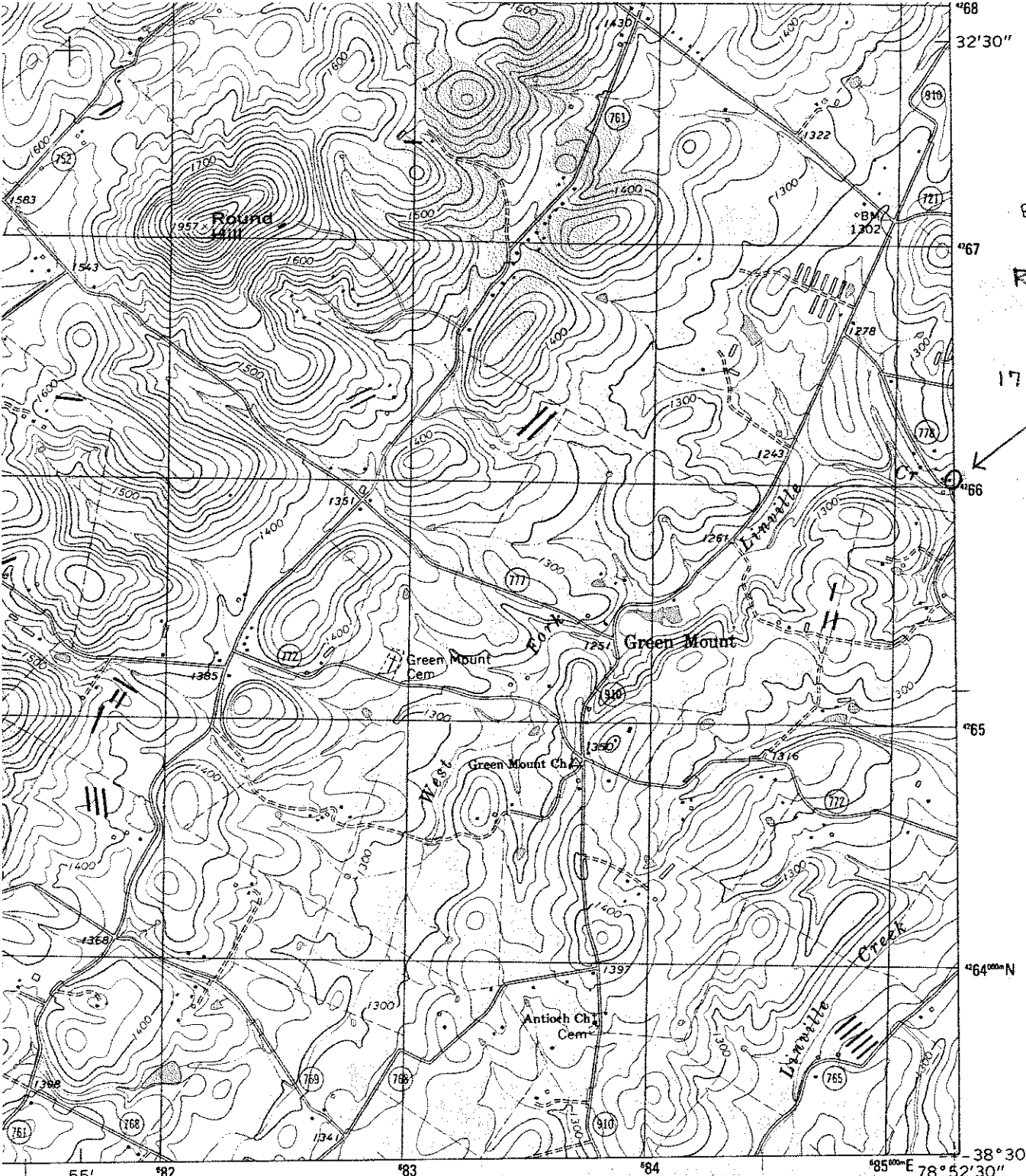
PROJECT#: 0205-025-SP

DATE: OCT. 19, 2004

SCALE: 1" = 50'

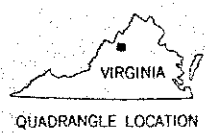
SHEET: 1 OF 1

Breneman/Turner Mill, Rockingham County



Breneman/  
Turner Mill  
Rockingham  
County  
UTMS  
17/685 220/4266021  
82-23

1 MILE



ROAD CLASSIFICATION

Primary highway, hard surface	Light-duty road, hard or improved surface	
Secondary highway, hard surface	Unimproved road	
Interstate Route	U. S. Route	State Route

SINGERS GLEN, VA.

1994

DMA 5261 III SW-SERIES V834

(HARRISONBURG)  
5260 IV NE

