

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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.

1. Name of Property

Historic name: Gish Mill

Other names/site number: VDHR# 149-0057

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

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

2. Location

Street & number: 350 Gus Nicks Boulevard

City or town: Vinton State: VA County: Roanoke

Not For Publication: N/A Vicinity: N/A

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended,

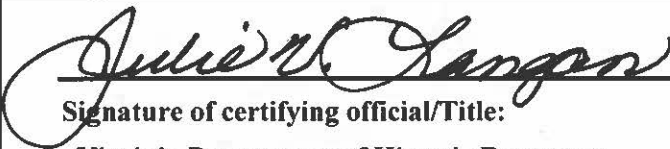
I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60.

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register Criteria. I recommend that this property be considered significant at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Applicable National Register Criteria:

A B C D

 Signature of certifying official/Title: _____ <u>Virginia Department of Historic Resources</u> State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	<u>9/27/2021</u> Date
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In my opinion, the property <input type="checkbox"/> meets <input type="checkbox"/> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
Signature of commenting official: _____	Date
Title : _____	State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

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4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

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

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Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>1</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>1</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION: manufacturing facility: mill

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions.)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

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7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions.)

OTHER: Mid-19th Century Mill

Materials: (enter categories from instructions.)

Principal exterior materials of the property: STONE; CONCRETE; BRICK; METAL (aluminum)

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current physical appearance and condition of the property. Describe contributing and noncontributing resources if applicable. Begin with a **summary paragraph** that briefly describes the general characteristics of the property, such as its location, type, style, method of construction, setting, size, and significant features. Indicate whether the property has historic integrity.)

Summary Paragraph

Located in the Town of Vinton, Gish Mill is a ca. 1846 three-story brick grist mill situated along the south bank of Glade Creek. The original central block of the mill features handmade brick laid up in six-course bond that reflects its mid-19th century initial construction. The multiple frame and concrete additions constructed between ca. 1930 and 1955 include grain bins and elevators, loading docks, additional storage rooms, and retail spaces. Although the overshot water wheel no longer exists, remnants of the mill dam and the concrete platform that supported the wheel axle survive to indicate how the mill was powered. With the exception of the first floor, which was renovated in the 1980s for a feed and seed store, the mill interior as well as much of the milling equipment remains relatively intact. As a whole, the mill property retains sufficient integrity to illustrate the continued operation of the mill from the mid-19th to the early-21st century as it evolved with changing technologies and markets.

Narrative Description

Setting

Gish Mill is situated on a 0.71-acre site along Glade Creek in the northwest corner of the Town of Vinton in Roanoke County, Virginia. The parcel is bounded by Gus Nicks Boulevard to the southwest, Omar Avenue NE to the east, and Glade Creek to the north. The grist mill faces south onto a paved parking lot. Gus Nicks Boulevard slopes up to the south, extending above the mill. On the north side of Glade Creek is a residential neighborhood located outside the town boundaries in the City of Roanoke. A non-historic plywood shed stands immediately north of the mill. Behind the mill are remnants of the historic dam that once spanned Glade Creek; however, the millrace has either been obliterated by floods or is obscured by dense vegetation. Large trees stand between the mill and the creek, blocking views of the mill from across the creek.

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Exterior

Gish Mill is a ca. 1846 three-story brick grist mill that has evolved and expanded with multiple additions as it continued to operate into the early-21st century. Constructed between ca. 1930 and 1955, the various additions append the east, south, and west sides of the original central brick block, primarily to provide additional storage as the mill production increased. The ca. 1846 brick block at the center consists of two stories of masonry construction with a balloon-frame third story and a full basement. This central block housed the processing operations during the entirety of the building's use as a grist mill. This section is capped by a ca. 1940 gambrel roof clad with metal and stands on an uncoursed stone foundation. The original roof configuration is unknown as there is no physical or pictorial evidence. The building likely had a mansard roof at some point in the late-19th or early-20th century as an undated illustration and a 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance map depict a mansard roof. According to a photo from the 1936 WPA survey of the mill, the mansard roof was replaced with a front gable roof by the mid-1930s. The existing roof was likely constructed after a 1940 fire, as indicated by the presence of dimensional wood boards, which were also used to construct the 1940s additions. The undated historic illustration and the 1919 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map depict a metal overshot water wheel on the north elevation; however, the wheel was removed sometime between 1919 and 1934. A concrete platform on the rear elevation, that likely supported the axle of the wheel, remains intact. This platform is sheltered by a poorly constructed wood-frame canopy covered with metal. A grain elevator penthouse extends above the roof. The hand-made brick walls of the first two stories are three wythes thick laid up in six-course common bond, while the balloon-frame third story is covered with aluminum siding. Several 6/6 double-hung wood-sash windows remain extant on the second story. Some of these windows are covered with plywood on the exterior.

A ca. 1930 three-story concrete addition appends the west side elevation of the original block. This addition contains nine grain bins. It is covered with a metal shed roof with exposed rafter tails. A grain elevator, which used a conveyor belt to transport the grain between the mill and the storage bins, extends over the roof. The grain elevator is sheltered by a penthouse clad with wood boards and covered by a metal shed roof. There are no window or door openings in this addition.

A 1940s one-story frame addition, constructed in two sections, extends from the east side elevation of the original mill structure. The first section of this addition, which appends directly to the central block, is L-shaped in plan, and stands on a concrete foundation. The exterior walls and shed roof are covered with metal siding. This earlier section features two non-historic roll-up metal garage doors and a large vertical-board wood door. The window openings on the front and rear elevations of this section are covered with plywood. Double-hung 1/1 wood sash windows remain intact behind the plywood on the front elevation. A six-light casement window remains intact behind one of the plywood covering on the rear elevation. A later wing appends the east side of the first section of this 1940s addition. A dividing wall, with Bricktex siding intact on what would have been the exterior wall of the first section, provides evidence that these two sections were built in two different building campaigns. The second section is rectangular in plan and stands on a concrete foundation. Similar to the earlier section, the exterior walls and shed roof are covered with metal siding. A freight-door opening on the front elevation, which has been covered on the exterior with metal siding, features a single-leaf, "Z"-braced wood door (the

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other leaf of this door is missing). There are six-light wood casement windows on the rear elevation. According to the 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance map, both sections of this addition were built for storage.

Loading docks were added to the front (south) and rear (north) side of the mill in the 1940s and the late 1950s. A ca. 1940 loading dock, which is noted as being of frame construction on the 1951 Sanborn Fire Insurance Map, appends the front elevation. Partially extending across the central block and 1940s addition, this loading dock features a wood deck sheltered by a metal awning. Given the 1951 note regarding the frame construction and the existing wood decking, it appears that the original supports for this deck may have been replaced with the current concrete-block foundation faced with stone veneer.

A post-1955 frame addition appends the east side of the 1940s wing. This narrow, triangular addition stands on a concrete foundation. The form of this addition is dictated by the topography of the land and the trajectory of Glade Creek. Metal siding clads the frame walls and metal panels sheath the shed roof. The front elevation contains sliding metal freight doors and a small concrete loading dock. Two one-story, post-1955, storefront additions append the front elevation of the original block and the ca. 1930 concrete grain bin addition. The western one-story concrete block addition has a metal shed roof. The eastern addition, which was constructed post-1984 for the Holdren's Store, is of frame construction. This addition stands on a concrete block foundation clad with stone veneer. The exterior walls are clad with vertical wood boards. The shed roof is covered with metal. Plywood covers the window and door openings in these two additions. The door openings contain ¾-light metal doors, and the windows contain 3/1 double-hung wood sash windows (likely salvaged from another property) and aluminum-frame storefront windows.

Interior

The original central block historically served as the hub of the “automated” milling process. Although the water wheel, hurst frame, and millstones have been removed, the layout of the three-story building and milling equipment associated with Oscar Evans’ “automated” milling process and the electric-powered roller mill operations still exist. The cogged wheel drive and gears are located on the basement level. These were connected to the roller mills on the upper stories by a system of belts and belt wheels invented by Evans in the late-18th century¹. Bins on the upper level stored the grain prior to grinding it with grain elevators transporting it to the hoppers that fed the grain into the roller mills. After the grain was milled, the finishing activities of tempering, bolstering, bleaching, and packing took place on the second and third floors. Numerous patches in the flooring indicate the locations where the conveyor belts and milling equipment connected through the different levels of the mill.

From 1982-2015, Holdren's Country Store occupied the first story of the original block as well as the two storefront additions. These spaces, which were extensively remodeled feature non-historic interior finishes such as vinyl tile floors, dropped acoustic tile ceilings, and walls covered with either gypsum wallboard or pegboard panels. The historic heavy timber columns and beams are partially visible on the first floor of the original block. The rear room on the first floor features exposed brick walls and wood joists. Some of the historic milling equipment remains intact in this room. The second floor of the original block survives in relatively good and

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unmodified condition with the historic open plan and fabric intact. This level features exposed whitewashed brick perimeter walls, wood floors, and an exposed structural system consisting of joists supported by heavy timber beams and columns. Several partial-height partition walls create storage areas within the space. Remnants of processing equipment remain intact on this floor, including conveyor belt wheels, hoppers, and the grain elevator. A large oil tank remains at the west end of this level. The third floor also remains unmodified with the historic open plan and materials intact. The balloon-frame walls and roof structure remain exposed. A large hole at the north end of the wood floor may be the result of damage from a leaking roof. Historic mill equipment, including a dust collector called the Eureka Cyclone, remains intact on this floor as well.

The basement remains intact without modifications. The stone foundation walls are exposed as are the first-floor joists, the heavy timber structural elements, and the dirt floor. The basement contains a significant amount of milling machinery including the cogged wheel drive, several other large gear wheels, conveyor belts, and grain hoppers.

The interior of the grain bin addition features exposed concrete walls and floors. The bins extend the full height of the addition. The two historic additions to the east of the original block, which were used for storage, feature wood floors, exposed wood wall framing and exterior siding, and exposed joists. The structural systems consist of 2x4 wood rafters supported by wood beams and wood posts. Partial-height stud partitions sheathed with plywood create several small rooms within the additions.

The non-historic addition at the eastern end of the building features a concrete floor and exposed wall framing. The roof structure consists of simple wood trusses which support the metal roof. The exposed system of wood posts supporting a central wood beam is in poor condition as some of the posts have been previously removed. The two non-historic storefront additions appending the front elevation of the original block of the mill feature concrete floors covered with non-historic tile and carpeting. The walls and ceilings are covered with gypsum wallboard.

Shed (NC)

The property includes one secondary resource. Located directly behind the mill at the east end of the concrete platform, the wood frame shed features a front-gable roof. The roof and north, east, and south walls are covered with metal siding. The front (west) wall is covered with sheets of plywood. A large opening is cut into the west (front) elevation. The shed has no windows or doors. The shed was constructed post-1955 as it does not appear on the Sanborn Fire Insurance maps. The shed is not a contributing resource to the property.

Statement of Integrity

Gish Mill retains its physical integrity of location and setting as it continues to be situated along the south bank of Glade Creek with remnants of the concrete dam still visible to indicate its connection to the creek and former mill pond. The original central block along with the later additions clearly reflect its historic design as a grist mill that evolved over time with changing technologies and product markets. The three-story central block, where the milling process took place, utilized vertical connections for the gear system and gravity in its operations while the concrete grain bin addition provided critical fireproof storage. The later one-story additions

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created additional storage for the finished products as the milling production increased. The handmade brick of the 1846 central block as well as the 1930s concrete construction of the grain bin addition retain integrity of workmanship and materials that conveys the period in which they were built. Non-historic updates in the interior of the former store area consist of tile floors, dropped ceilings, and gypsum wallboard or peg boards covering the walls. The non-historic materials conceal historic fabric that appears to be intact. These physical aspects of the building, along with its siting along the creek and the extant milling equipment, serve to retain the feeling and association of the property as a mid-19th century grist mill that continued to operate as a mill through the early-21st century.

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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 grave
- D. A cemetery
- E. A reconstructed building, object, or structure
- F. A commemorative property
- G. Less than 50 years old or achieving significance within the past 50 years

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Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions.)

ARCHITECTURE

INDUSTRY

Period of Significance

1846-1956

Significant Dates

1867

1911

1940

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Unknown

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Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph (Provide a summary paragraph that includes level of significance, applicable criteria, justification for the period of significance, and any applicable criteria considerations.)

Gish Mill, located at 350 Gus Nicks Boulevard in the town of Vinton, Virginia, is a rare surviving example of a mid-19th century grist mill in Roanoke County that continued to operate into the 21st century. Gish Mill is locally significant under Criterion A in the area of Industry as a mill that was originally water powered and used millstones for grinding, then was adapted to innovations in the industry as it became a roller mill powered by electricity during the second decade of the 20th century. The mill is distinguished by its retention of much of its milling equipment, lending insight into how grain was processed into flour and feed. Under Criterion C, Gish Mill is locally significant in the area of Architecture as a rare extant example of a mid-19th century mill with accretive alterations significant in their own right as being illustrative of changing milling technology. The property's period of significance is 1846-1956. This period of significance begins with the original construction of the mill in 1846, encompasses significant dates – including 1867 when the Gish family sold the mill to Isaac W. Vinyard, 1911 when the mill was renamed Vinton Rolling Mill, and 1940 when a fire destroyed a large frame wing of the mill – before ending in 1956 when the mill ceased operating under local ownership.

Narrative Statement of Significance (Provide at least **one** paragraph for each area of significance.)

Criteria Justification

Criterion A: Industry

Gish Mill is significant as a rare surviving example of a mid-19th century grist mill that expanded and evolved over the years to accommodate new technologies and the changing market for agricultural products. Originally constructed as a water-powered mill that utilized millstones for grinding, the mill adapted to innovations in the industry as it became a roller mill powered by electricity during the second decade of the 20th century. With much of its milling equipment intact, the mill demonstrates how grain was processed into flour and feed. Gish Mill also served as the industrial and economic impetus for the establishment of a mid-19th century community that would expand and culminate in the development of the town of Vinton.

Criterion C: Architecture

Gish Mill is significant in the area of Architecture as a rare surviving example of a mid-19th century grist mill in Roanoke County. The utilitarian design and construction of the original 1846 central block, as well as that of the later additions, clearly convey its specialized function and continued operation as a grist mill. The vertical massing of the three-story central block was purposefully designed to connect gear shafts and conveyor belts vertically through the different levels and to utilize gravity in the efficient processing of the grain. The handmade bricks of the 1846 mill as well as the concrete construction of the 1930s grain-bin addition reflect not only the time in which they were built but also the desirability of fireproof construction for the highly volatile milling process. The simple, one-story design of the 1940s additions with their freight

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doors and loading docks also represent the need for additional storage as the milling production was increasing during this time. Every aspect of the building design and construction embodies its function as a grist mill that evolved with changing technologies and markets as it continued to operate from the mid-19th through the early-21st century.

Historical Background

The first members of the Gish family arrived in the Roanoke Valley in the late eighteenth-century. The area, which would become Roanoke County in 1838, was then part of Botetourt County. The Gish family was among numerous German settlers who established themselves in the area after the Revolutionary War. Many of the immigrants in the region settled in close proximity to the Roanoke River and its tributaries, such as Glade Creek and Wolf Creek, as they provided fertile soil for farming and powering mills. Many sources attribute the arrival of the Gish family in Botetourt County to between 1795-1797. In 1798, David Gish, Sr. received a permit from the Botetourt County Clerk's Office to construct a mill along Glade Creek, providing the first primary historical evidence of Gish's presence in the area. A document dated November 27, 1800, and signed by Governor James Monroe grants 39 acres to David Gish from William Fleming's estate.²

The area of Roanoke County, formed in 1838, was rural with wheat serving as the major cash crop during the first half of the 19th century. The census for 1850 and 1860 report a 70% increase in the production of wheat during this time with Indian corn as the second highest crop yield.³ Early industrial activity in Southwest Virginia primarily consisted of the construction and operation of grist mills as subsistence farming depended on them. By 1860, census records indicate that twelve mills existed in Roanoke County (with Gish Mill being the only one surviving today).⁴ These mills, typically located in rural areas, were powered by water to grind or pound grain and were often run by German immigrants. Grain came from local farms and was processed in the mills as flour, meal, or feed to nourish both humans and animals. These mills were not only industrial centers, but commercial and social gathering places as well. Locals knew that mills were often "where you could get the latest prognostications for the day's or season's weather or where you could get the latest on crop growth, farming methods, and who had what for sale or barter."⁵ Early roads and communities would often develop around mills.

David Gish, Sr. was one of the first Gishes to settle in the area that would become Vinton. Although David Gish, Sr. and his brothers John and Christian operated mills on both Glade and Wolf creeks by 1840, the surviving grist mill structure on Gus Nicks Boulevard dates to ca. 1846.⁶ According to the Roanoke County Land Book of 1846, a \$5,000 improvement for a new mill on Glade Creek is attributed to David Gish, Jr. This is the only Gish family mill that has survived into the 21st century. The early community that developed around the mill in the early-19th century was known as Gish's Mill, which would become the Town of Vinton by the end of the century.

As the earliest landowners, businessmen, and namesakes in Gish's Mill, the Gish family members were leaders in improving the community's economy through the mid-19th century with the establishment of grist mills, a general store, and a depot along the Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio (AM&O) Railroad line. After the completion of the Virginia and Tennessee Railroad in

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the area in 1852, William Gish established a general store and a makeshift depot, which consisted of a small boxcar, along the line.

Although the Gish family sold the grist mill soon after the Civil War, they continued to be integrally involved in the local economy and the development of the town. William Gish's sons George McHenry Gish and Griffin Gish took over their father's mercantile business after the war. In 1870, the Virginia & Tennessee Railroad became consolidated under General William Mahone's new Atlantic, Mississippi & Ohio Railroad. That same year, George McHenry Gish leveraged his military clout and convinced Mahone to build a new depot in Gish's Mill. Not only did he donate the land upon which the railroad built the depot, Gish also gave the land that provided access east of the depot on Washington Street. George McHenry Gish led efforts to build a town at Gish's Mill through sponsoring a town survey ca. 1875 and auctioning lots for development.⁷

In 1867, the grist mill was sold to Isaac W. Vinyard. The Vinyards were another prominent family in the community. It is widely believed, although not proven, that the name "Vinton" derives from the combination of Vinyard and Preston (another distinguished local family). The Vinyards owned land and several businesses in the community. They also sold a large amount of land to the Town of Vinton on January 26, 1876.⁸

In the early 1880s an influx of people moved to the area to work at the Norfolk & Western railroad's machine repair and shops that were located within a mile of Gish's Mill. This significant population growth, combined with the chartering of Roanoke City in 1882, inspired the incorporation of the 1.5-square mile Town of Vinton on March 17, 1884, with a population of 584.

In 1908, Isaac W. Vinyard deeded the mill to his daughters, Nannie Thomas and Blanch Huff. In 1911, William Bowie took over running the grist mill, which was now known as Vinton Roller Mills, indicating that the milling equipment had been updated by this time. Bowie, who had worked at mills around the area for over twenty-five years, leased the mill for five years and made major improvements to the mill and its products. He installed modern machinery – presumably converting it to a rolling mill – and developed new, high-grade flours. In 1918, Vinyard's daughters sold the mill to Lindsey-Robinson Co. for \$10,000. Three years later, in 1921, the mill was sold to Vinton Milling Co. for \$30,000. Based on the Sanborn Fire Insurance Maps for 1919 and 1934, the concrete grain bins were constructed during this period. It also appears that the mill was converted to electric power during this time as the 1934 map no longer indicates the presence of a water wheel. A 1936 article touted the Vinton Milling Co. as Vinton's "chief industrial enterprise." Vinton Milling Co. is credited with rebuilding, enlarging, and updating the grist mill after a ca. 1924 fire, one of several that occurred over the years. The general manager of the mill, James W. Reynolds, also served as Vinton's mayor for multiple terms in the late 1920s and mid-1930s. Due to Reynolds's astute leadership, the company, and its products, including flour, corn meal, stock, and poultry feeds, progressively grew in financial importance and in consumer popularity throughout Southwest Virginia.⁹

The success of the Vinton Milling Co./Gish Mill inspired other mills to launch various industrial operations in Vinton in the 1930s. Burlington Mills constructed a weaving plant in 1936 on Tinker Creek. In 1937, Southern States Cooperative, which presently remains in business, also

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established a mill along Tinker Creek. These mills provided employment to hundreds of people in Vinton, bringing new residents to town.

Much of Gish Mill was destroyed by another fire on December 7, 1940, although the brick walls of the original mill remained standing. New additions to the mill building were constructed over the next 15 years as the mill continued to operate and expand. By 1951, the mill was renamed the Vinton Feed and Flour Mills. The building continued operating as a locally owned and operated mill until 1956, when it was bought by John W. Eshelman and Sons, Inc., a custom grinding and feed mixing business based out of Pennsylvania. Carnation became the owner of the mill in 1974 when it acquired Eshelman and Sons. In 1982 Holdren's Country Store, a retail feed and seed store purchased the mill, bringing it back into local ownership. Although Holdren's did not utilize the mill for processing, it operated a retail feed and seed store out of the building until 2015 when the store closed, and the Town of Vinton acquired the mill property. The mill building has stood vacant since then.

Identification and Registration of Grist Mills in Southwest Virginia

Although grist mills represent one of the first industries in rural Virginia and often prompted the development of communities as they served as a commercial and social center, they are a relatively rare building type today as most are no longer in operation. As of 2020, a total of sixteen mills in Virginia have been listed individually on the state and national registers with seven of these located in Southwest Virginia. Of these individually listed mills in the region, four were constructed during the first half of the 19th century. These include Breckenridge Mill (ca. 1822) in Botetourt County, Woodson Mill (ca. 1825) in Nelson County, Nininger's Mill (ca. 1847) in Botetourt County, and Jessees Mill (ca. 1850) in Russell County. Three individually listed mills in the region date to the Reconstruction era of the late-19th century, including Piedmont Mill (ca. 1866) in Franklin County, Brookside Mill (ca. 1876) in Grayson County and Bush Mill (ca. 1896) in Scott County. Four additional antebellum mills – Pattonsburg Mill (ca. 1825) in Botetourt County, Kelso's Mill (ca. 1830) in Bedford County, LaPrade's Mill (ca. 1838) in Franklin County, and Bondurant Mill in Franklin County – have been identified through survey but not listed on the registers. The ca. 1880 Bennett's Mill in Montgomery County is listed as a contributing resource to the North Fork Valley Rural Historic District. Of the eight antebellum mills identified either through register listing or survey in Southwest Virginia, five are of brick construction with the other three being of log or frame construction. While many of these mills have been restored or adapted for new uses, unfortunately, at least three – Pattonsburg Mill, LaPrade's Mill and Bondurant Mill – have deteriorated significantly and survive only as ruins. As a brick grist mill constructed in 1846, Gish Mill is the only surviving antebellum mill structure in Roanoke County and is also one of only a few such structures in Southwest Virginia identified to date. Plans are currently proposed to stabilize and renovate Gish Mill for use as a restaurant and lodging following the *Secretary of the Interior's Standards for Rehabilitation*.

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9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form.)

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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 # _____
- recorded by Historic American Landscape Survey # _____

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Primary location of additional data:

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

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

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): DHR File No. 149-0057

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 0.71

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates

Datum if other than WGS84: _____
(enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Latitude: 37.283457

Longitude: -79.899446

Or

UTM References

Datum (indicated on USGS map):

NAD 1927 or NAD 1983

1. Zone: Easting: Northing:

2. Zone: Easting: Northing:

3. Zone: Easting: Northing:

4. Zone: Easting : Northing:

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property.)

The historic boundary corresponds to the lot lines of 350 Gus Nicks Boulevard as recorded by Roanoke County, Virginia, as parcel numbers 060.11-04-22.00-0000 and 060.11-04-23.00-0000 as shown on the attached Tax Parcel Map. The attached Sketch Map + Photo Key also shows the true and correct historic boundary.

Gish Mill
Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA
County and State

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

The boundary includes the 0.71-acre property associated with the Gish Mill during its period of significance and thus includes its historic setting and all known associated historic resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title: Kate Kronau and Alison Blanton
organization: Hill Studio
street & number: 120 Campbell Avenue SW
city or town: Roanoke state: VA zip code: 24011
e-mail: kkronau@hillstudio.com / ablanton@hillstudio.com
telephone: (540) 342-5263
date: June 4, 2020

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A **USGS map** or equivalent (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Sketch map** for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources. Key all photographs to this map.
- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Photographs

Submit clear and descriptive photographs. The size of each image must be 1600x1200 pixels (minimum), 3000x2000 preferred, at 300 ppi (pixels per inch) or larger. Key all photographs to the sketch map. Each photograph must be numbered and that number must correspond to the photograph number on the photo log. For simplicity, the name of the photographer, photo date, etc. may be listed once on the photograph log and doesn't need to be labeled on every photograph.

Photo Log

Name of Property: Gish Mill
City or Vicinity: Roanoke County, Town of Vinton
State: Virginia
Photographer: Kate Kronau
Date Photographed: February 2020

Gish Mill

Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA

County and State

Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera:

- Photo 1 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0001
Front Elevation, view north
- Photo 2 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0002
Original Block, Front Elevation, view north
- Photo 3 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0003
Side Elevation, view SE
- Photo 4 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0004
Rear Elevation, view NW
- Photo 5 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0005
Rear Elevation, view south
- Photo 6 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0006
Shed, view SE
- Photo 7 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0007
Dam Remnants, view east
- Photo 8 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0008
Original Block, First Floor, view north
- Photo 9 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0009
Original Block, Second Floor, view NW
- Photo 10 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0010
Original Block, Third Floor, view south
- Photo 11 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0011
Original Block, Third Floor, view SE
- Photo 12 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0012
Original Block, Basement, view SW
- Photo 13 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0012
Early 1940s Addition, view NW
- Photo 14 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0012
Late 1940s Addition, view NW
- Photo 15 of 15: VA_RoanokeCounty_GishMill_0012
Post-1955 Addition, view SE

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.460 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 100 hours per response including 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 Office of Planning and Performance Management, U.S. Dept. of the Interior, 1849 C. Street, NW, Washington, DC.

Gish Mill

Name of Property

Roanoke County, VA

County and State

Endnotes

¹ David Larkin, *Mill: The History and Future of Naturally Powered Buildings*, (Universe Publishing, New York, NY, 2000), 15-19.

² Gene Marrano, "Vinton uncovers a bit of its past," *The Vinton Messenger*, March 15, 2007.

³ Frazier Associates, *Historical Architecture Reconnaissance Survey Report: Roanoke County, Virginia*, (Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA, April 1992), 40.

⁴ *Ibid*, 76

⁵ Alfred Tuck, "More than milling," *The Vinton Messenger*, March 20, 1997.

⁶ Deedie Dent Kagey, *When Past is Prologue*, (Roanoke County Sesquicentennial Committee, Roanoke, VA, 1988), 65.

⁷ *Ibid*, 267.

⁸ Darlene Coulson, *Reconnaissance Survey of Architectural and Historical Resources in the Town of Vinton*, (Virginia Department of Historic Resources, Richmond, VA, August 1992), 11.

⁹ "Flour Mill in Vinton Leading Town Industry," *The Times-Register*, Salem, April 3, 1936.

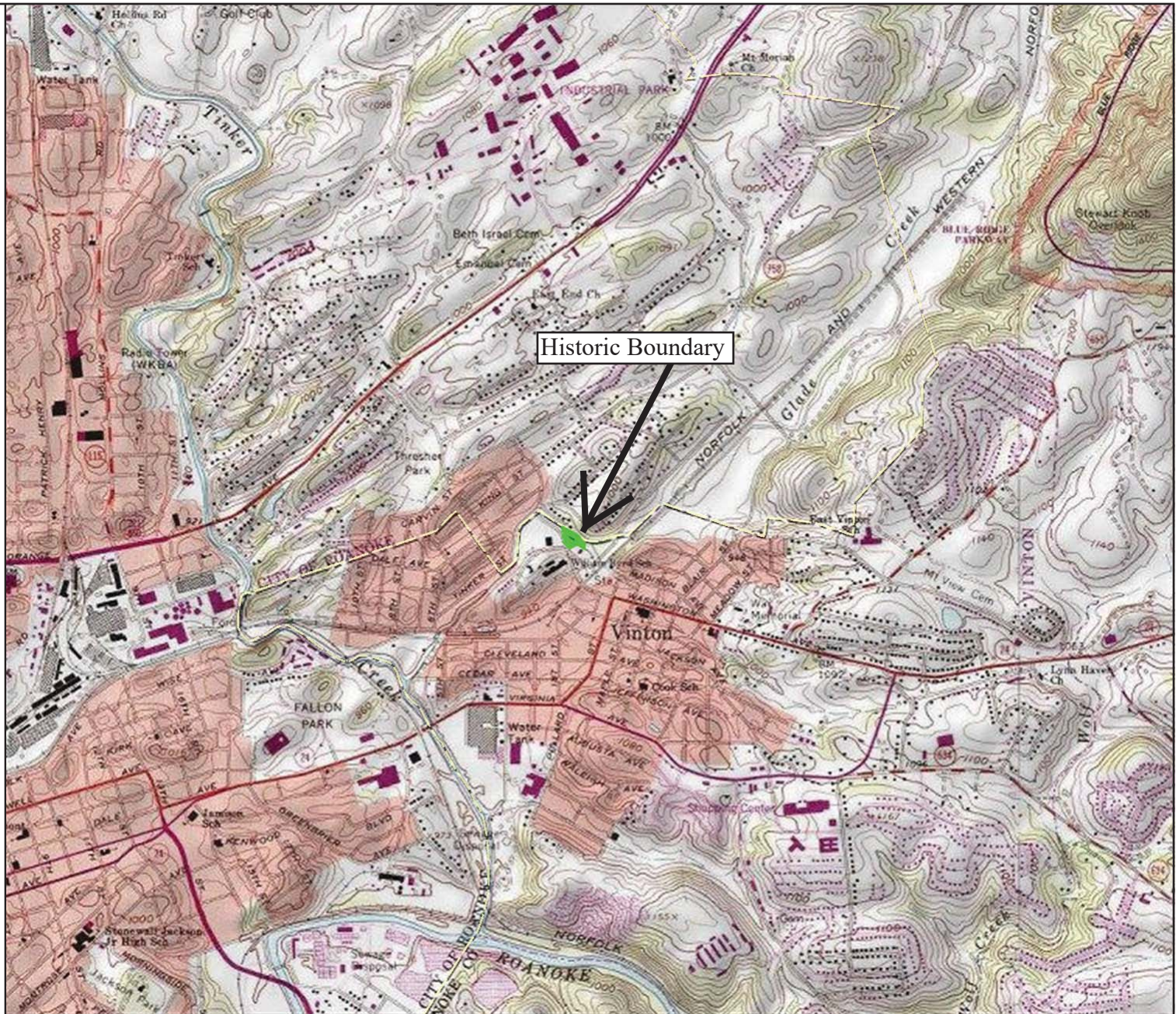


TOPOGRAPHIC MAP

Gish Mill

Roanoke County, VA

DHR No. 149-0057



Title:

Date: 9/24/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Feet

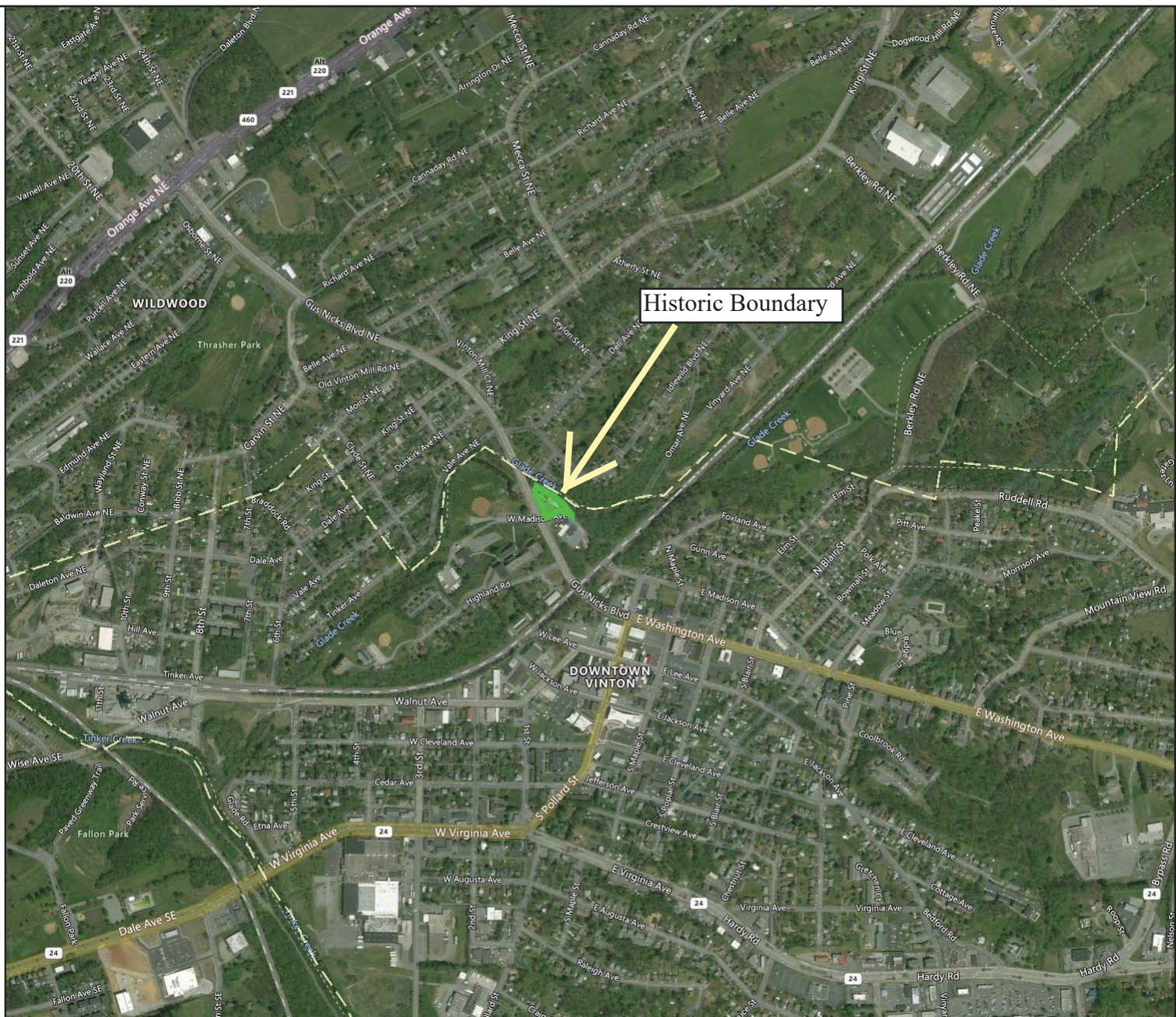
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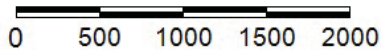


AERIAL VIEW - VICINITY

Gish Mill
Roanoke County, VA
DHR No. 149-0057



Feet



1:18,056 / 1"=1,505 Feet

Title:

Date: 9/24/2021

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

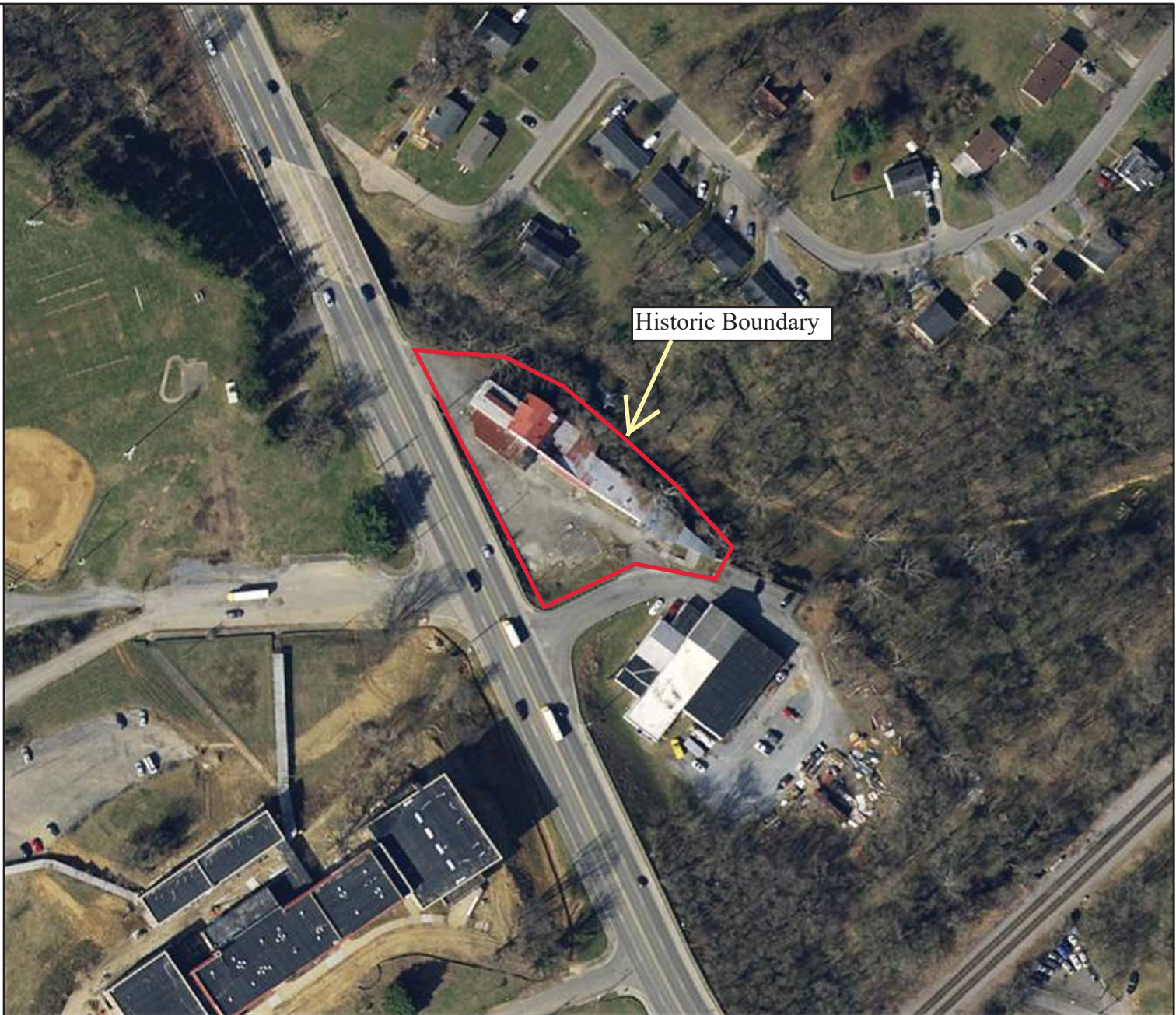
Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive to the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.

Legend

Location Map

Gish Mill
350 Gus Nicks Boulevard
Vinton, VA 24179
DHR ID#: 149-0057
Roanoke County, VA

Latitude: 37.283457°
Longitude: -79.899446°
WGS84
Map Source: VCRIS



Feet

0 50 100 150 200

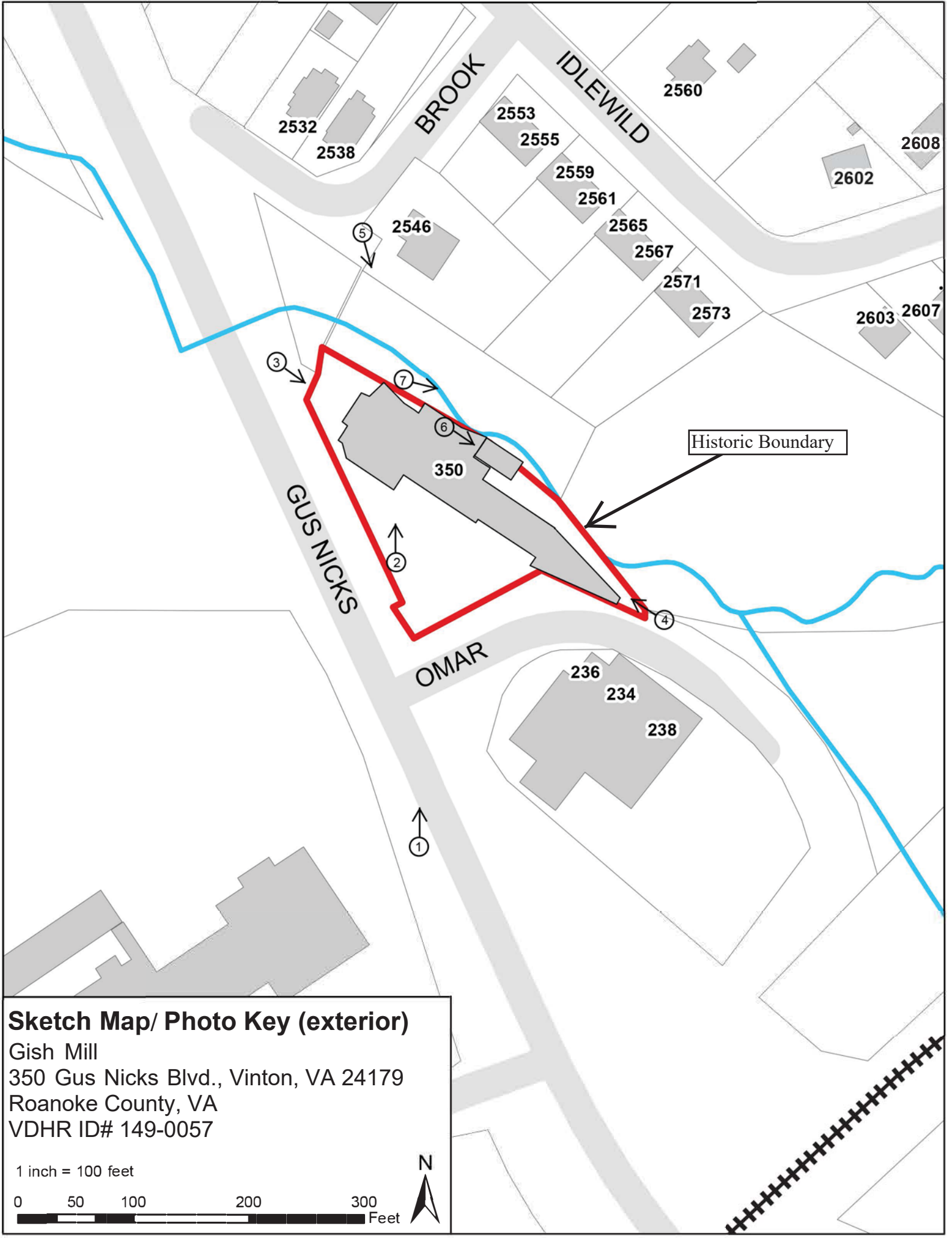
1:2,257 / 1"=188 Feet

Title: Gish Mill

Date: 2/12/2020

DISCLAIMER: Records of the Virginia Department of Historic Resources (DHR) have been gathered over many years from a variety of sources and the representation depicted is a cumulative view of field observations over time and may not reflect current ground conditions. The map is for general information purposes and is not intended for engineering, legal or other site-specific uses. Map may contain errors and is provided "as-is". More information is available in the DHR Archives located at DHR's Richmond office.

Notice if AE sites: Locations of archaeological sites may be sensitive the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA), and the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA) and Code of Virginia §2.2-3705.7 (10). Release of precise locations may threaten archaeological sites and historic resources.



Sketch Map/ Photo Key (exterior)

Gish Mill
350 Gus Nicks Blvd., Vinton, VA 24179
Roanoke County, VA
VDHR ID# 149-0057

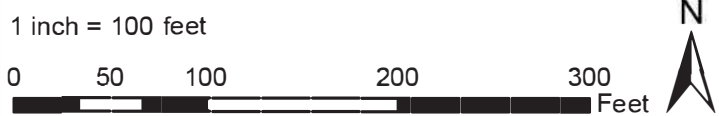
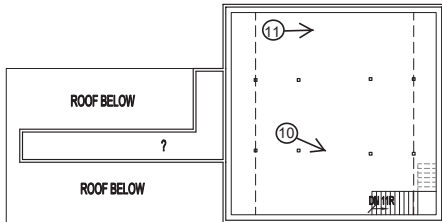
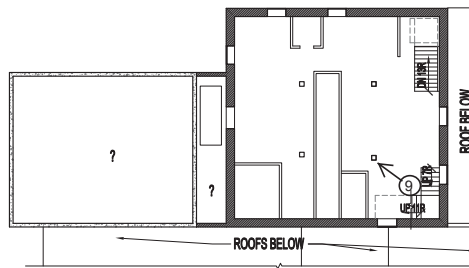


PHOTO KEY (Interior)

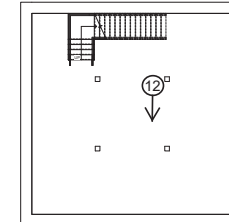
Gish Mill
 Roanoke County, VA
 DHR No. 149-0057



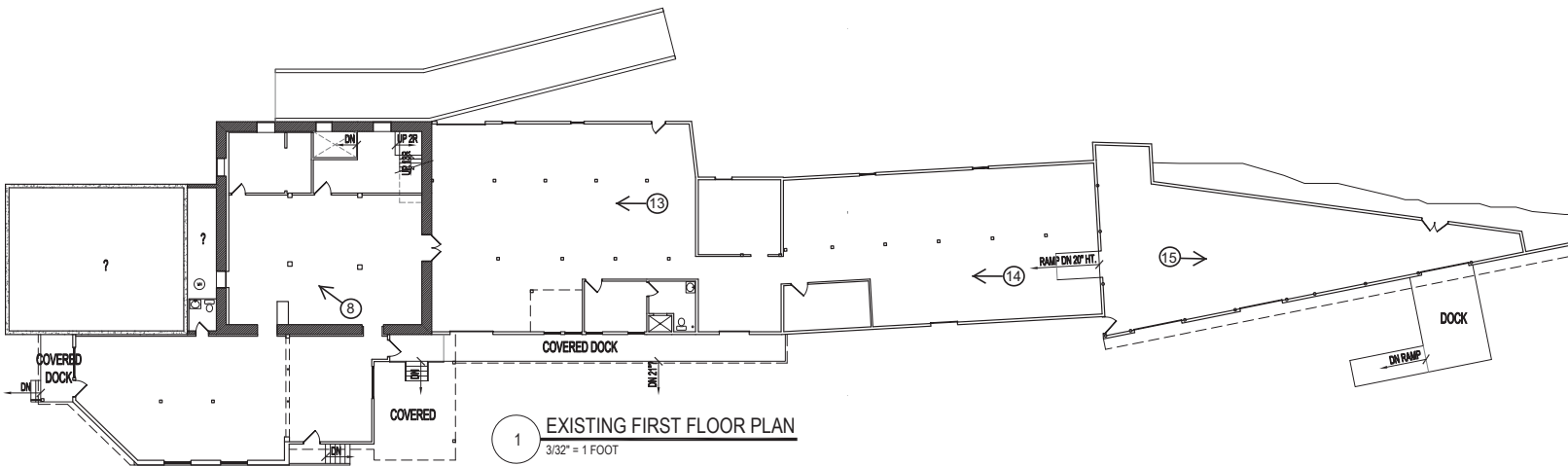
3 EXISTING THIRD FLOOR PLAN
 3/32" = 1 FOOT



2 EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 3/32" = 1 FOOT



4 EXISTING BASEMENT PLAN
 3/32" = 1 FOOT



1 EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 3/32" = 1 FOOT



**HILL
 STUDIO**

Landscape Architecture
 Architecture
 Community Planning
 Historic Preservation
 120 W. Campbell Ave. SW
 Roanoke, VA 24011
 tel: 540-342-5203 fax: 540-345-5625
 www.hillstudio.com

**PHOTO KEY (INTERIOR)
 AND FLOOR PLAN**

GISH MILL
 350 GUS NICKS BLVD.
 TOWN OF VINTON
 ROANOKE COUNTY, VA

24019
 AS-BUILTS

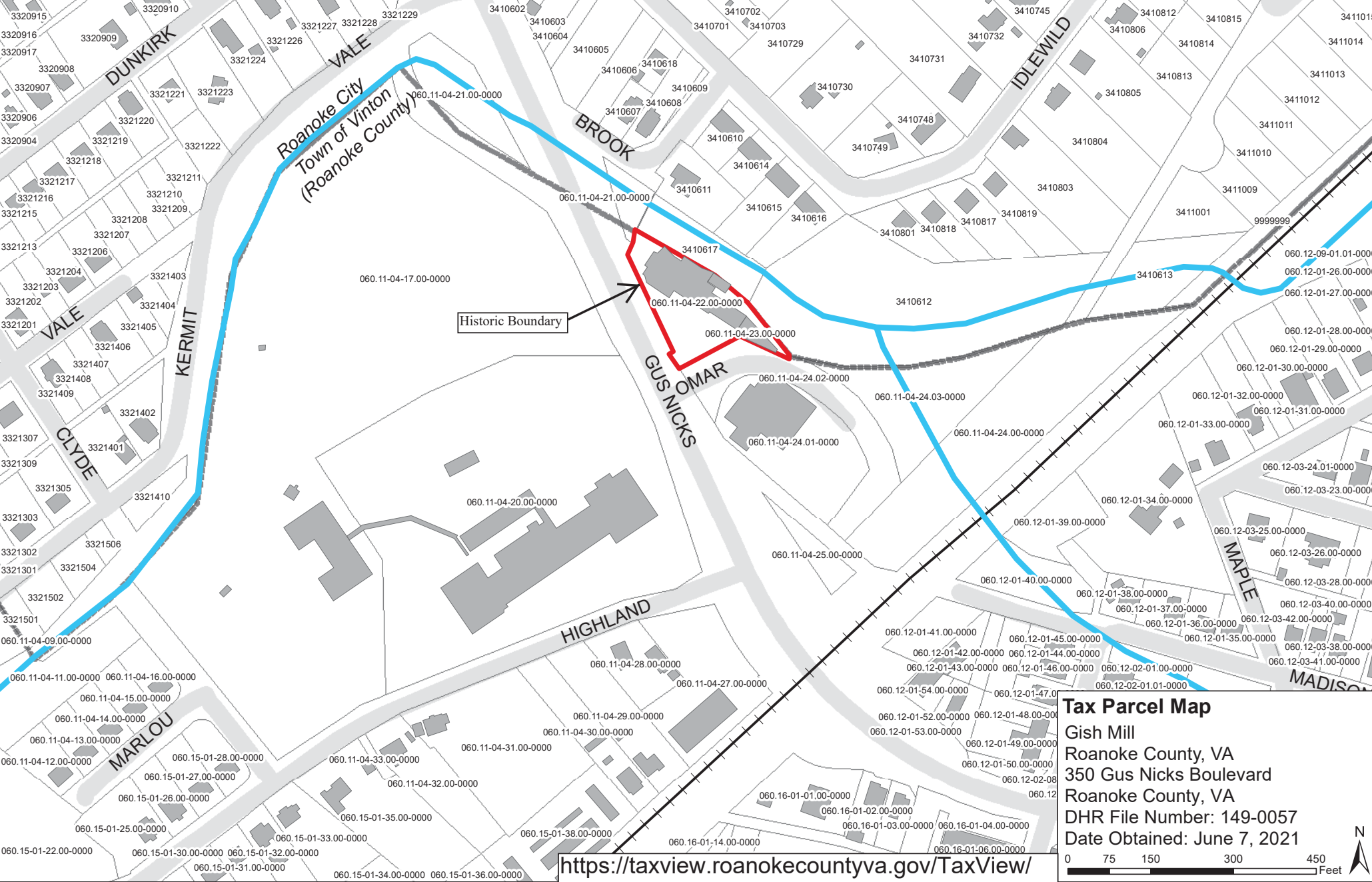
Seal

DRAWING NOT
 FOR
 CONSTRUCTION

**AS-BUILT
 FLOOR PLANS**

Date:	05.22.2017
Revisions:	
Drawn By:	FG
Review By:	HG
Project No.:	Gish Mill
Sheet No.:	

AB-1



Historic Boundary

Roanoke City
Town of Vinton
(Roanoke County)

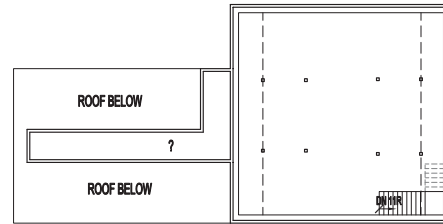
Tax Parcel Map
Gish Mill
Roanoke County, VA
350 Gus Nicks Boulevard
Roanoke County, VA
DHR File Number: 149-0057
Date Obtained: June 7, 2021

0 75 150 300 450 Feet

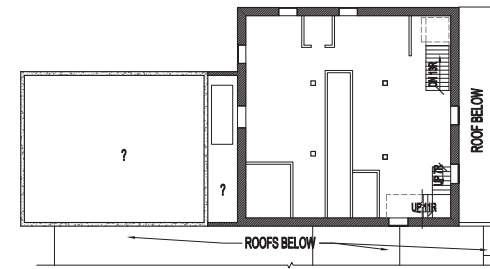
<https://taxview.roanokecountyva.gov/TaxView/>

ORIGINAL PLAN AND ADDITIONS

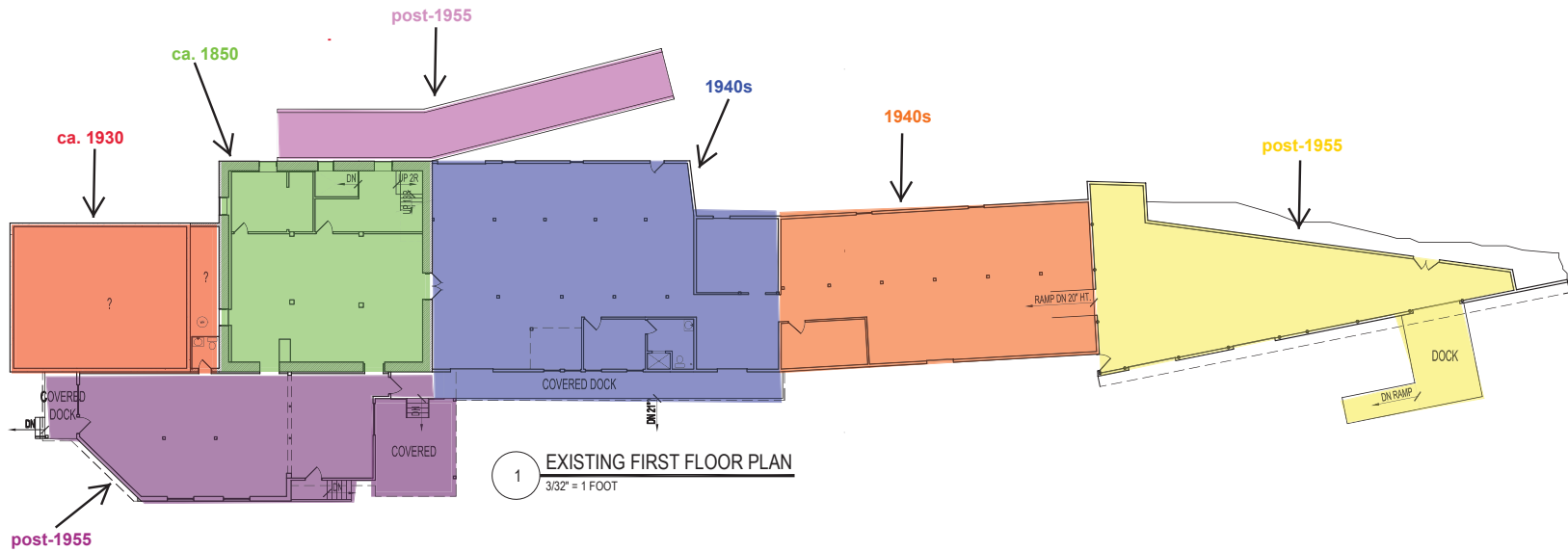
Gish Mill
 Roanoke County, VA
 DHR No. 149-0057



3 EXISTING THIRD FLOOR PLAN
 3/32" = 1 FOOT



2 EXISTING SECOND FLOOR PLAN
 3/32" = 1 FOOT



1 EXISTING FIRST FLOOR PLAN
 3/32" = 1 FOOT



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**ORIGINAL PLAN
 AND ADDITIONS**
 GISH MILL
 350 GUS NICKS BLVD.
 TOWN OF VINTON
 ROANOKE COUNTY,
 VA

AS-BUILTS

DRAWING NOT
 FOR
 CONSTRUCTION

Title:
**AS-BUILT
 FLOOR PLANS**

Date: 05.22.2017
 Revisions:

 Drawn By: FG
 Review By: HG
 Project No: Gish Mill
 Sheet No:

AB-1