

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

FINAL

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC Wood, John, Old Mill

AND/OR COMMON Wood's Mill (John Wood Mill)

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER Old Lincoln Way Road (Rt. 330)

CITY, TOWN Deep River #1

STATE Indiana

___ VICINITY OF
CODE

___ NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
2nd

COUNTY CODE
Lake

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL <input type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Lake County Parks and Recreation Department

STREET & NUMBER 111 1/2 West Joliet Street

CITY, TOWN Crown Point

___ VICINITY OF

STATE
Indiana

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, Legal Record File
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Lake County Parks and Recreation Department

STREET & NUMBER 111 1/2 West Joliet Street

CITY, TOWN Crown Point

STATE
Indiana

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Old Mill Park Site

DATE 6/26/72

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Survey File- Lake County Parks & Recreation Department

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

When John Wood constructed a saw mill in 1837 and a grist mill the following year, it formed a basis for one of the first industries in Northern Indiana and a prosperous community formed by Mr. Wood. Today, only the grist mill remains in a much altered, seriously deteriorating condition, yet it provides a mellow glimpse of early Indiana industry.

The 2 1/2 story common bound brick mill is a rectangular, four void structure. The exterior walls are load bearing with the interior spaces supported by solid, hand hewn wooden beams. The end bay of one side of the main facade slightly protrudes for no apparent aesthetic reason. The roof is a gambrel style with the recent addition of asbestos shingles. The eaves are projecting with the rafters exposed. All the windows have segmented openings with plain wooden surroundings and lugsills. All the windows are either missing or broken due to repeated vandalism. The off center main opening (the door is missing) is simple with a plain wood lintel overhead.

By 1954, all of the machinery and conveyor belts had been stripped from the mill. All that remains are the exposed interior structural members which in spite of their poor condition present an interesting story in themselves. A three story brick smoke stack is also adjacent to the mill.

Although the mill tells a story rich in local color, neglect and repeated vandalism threaten this historical structure into a complete state of dilapidation.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1838

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

In 1837, John Wood, who had come from Massachusetts just one year before, constructed the first mill and probably the first industry in Porter and Lake counties. Mr. Wood then continued to build auxiliary mills and at one time the community which centered around the mill numbered fourteen families. The old grist mill, the only mill remaining has been altered and is in a deteriorating condition, however, it still vividly recalls the past of this early Indiana community.

John Wood visited the forested land of Northern Indiana and made a land claim in 1835. One year later, he returned with his family only to find that General Tipton, a United States Senator from Terre Haute had laid a "float" on his plans in the name of Quash-man, a Potawatami chief who had been given the land by the government in 1832. Wood had hoped to pay the government \$200 for the quarter section but ended up buying the land directly from Quash-ma for \$1,000. The grist mill which was constructed in 1838 along with a saw mill built the previous year became a very prosperous business for the Wood family.

In the early 1900's the mill was equiped with a steam engine in case the water power failed. As late as the 1950's the mill was intact, but by 1954 the mill was stripped of all the machinery and conveyor belts.

The site also contains the family burial ground which was established when one of Mr. Wood's sons died shortly after the family arrived. Mr. Wood's grave can be seen to this day. An ancient Indian mound dated by archaeologists to be 500 A.D. is also within the property.

In its prime Wood's Mill, properly called Woodvale, was a thriving small community which John Wood had built with the adventurous pioneer spirit and hard work that was so much a part of early Indiana history.

This mill is significant as a good example of mill construction typical in design and fenestration of many across Indiana that are most often of wood construction.

This is especially significant because of its association with early settlement in Lake County and as the center of a village.

