

File Copy

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in How to Complete National Register Forms Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Adams Mill

and or common

2. Location

street & number County Road 50 East, approximately 1/2 mile north of County Road 500 South N/A not for publication

city, town Cutler vicinity of

state Indiana code 018 county Carroll code 015

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes checkboxes for public/private ownership, occupied/unoccupied status, and various present uses like museum, educational, etc.

4. Owner of Property

name James Broadhurst

street & number 5907 Murvihill Road

city, town Valparaiso N/A vicinity of state Indiana 46383

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Carroll County Recorder's Office

street & number Carroll County Courthouse

city, town Delphi state Indiana 46923

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Indiana Historic Sites and Structures Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1979 federal X state county local

depository for survey records Indiana Department of Natural Resources

city, town Indianapolis state Indiana

## 7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" 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

The Adams Mill is a three-and-one-half story rectangular frame building of simple design. It is situated on a wooded property in a curve of Wildcat Creek and built over a constructed mill race. Measuring approximately 45' x 50', it has a gabled roof with a projecting attic gable and a foundation of cut stone piers, reinforced with concrete at a later date.

The main facade faces north (Photo 1) and has wood corner boards. The ground level has four openings. A wood door is centered on the facade and a rectangular blind window is east of the door. A wide entry with wood sliding double doors is on the east end of the facade. A rectangular double-hung sash window with two-over-two lights is located on the west end of the facade. All windows on the exterior are identical to this window, except on the attic level.

Directly above the center door, there is an enlarged opening with a wood double door on the second level. The opening is flanked by a window on each side. A sheet metal awning, built in 1942, shelters the second level. The third level also has three bays, which are identical to the second level bays, except the center bay is a single door. Above the door is a small wood panel inscribed with "1845". The attic level has two rectangular double-hung sash windows with six-over-six lights. Above the windows the attic gable projects and is supported by diagonal braces. Originally, a hoist hung from the projecting gable and was used to transport materials to the various access doors.

The symmetrical side facades are identical (Photos 2 and 3). Each facade has four windows on each of the three levels. Under the eaves, a wide wood fascia extends across the side facades and around the corners of the main facade.

The rear facade has three windows evenly spaced on each of the first three levels. The attic level has two windows, topped by another window, which is positioned near the peak of the gable.

The gabled roof was covered with asphalt shingles in the late 1940's or early 1950's. An interior brick chimney is offset on the west side of the roof ridge near the front of the structure.

Interior framing is of native yellow poplar. Timbers, some of which are 18" x 18", were cut at Adams' sawmill nearby. The interior houses the machinery for milling grain and flour. The machinery consists of a maze of gears, leather belts, and well-worn wood, and is still in operable condition. The original turbines still produce the power for the milling operations. Some replacement of worn or outdated machinery parts has occurred, but not on a large scale.

# 8. Significance

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below				
prehistoric	archeology-prehistoric	community planning	landscape architecture	religion	
1400-1499	archeology-historic	conservation	law	science	
1500-1599	agriculture	economics	literature	sculpture	
1600-1699	architecture	education	military	social	
1700-1799	art	X engineering	music	humanitarian	
X 1800-1899	X commerce	exploration settlement	philosophy	theater	
X 1900-	communications	X industry	politics government	transportation	
		invention		other (specify)	

**Specific dates** 1845-46 **Builder Architect** Unknown

**Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)**

The Adams Mill is important as the only surviving example of a grist mill in Carroll County and one of only about 15 operable grist mills in Indiana. It operated almost continually from 1846 to 1952 and remains an excellent example of Indiana's vanishing mills which, at one time, numbered over 200. The mill is also significant for its contribution to the development of the community of Bolivar, which grew up around it.

In 1830 John Adams, from Pennsylvania, settled along the Wildcat Creek in Carroll County on a section of land excellent for supporting power for the mills. At this location the creek makes a horseshoe bend and at the southern end there is a natural drop of the creek's level. Here Adams constructed a dam and connected millrace to supply power for his mill. A sawmill was erected on the millrace in 1831, and it was probably powered with an under-shot wheel. A flouring mill was built in 1835, but it was a small structure and was soon overcrowded with work since it was the first in the area.

The present mill was constructed in 1845 and 1846. Huge timbers cut in Adams' sawmill were used in the construction of the mill. The mill stones were ordered from Italy and transported across the ocean when ships needed ballast material. The stones were turned by two underwater turbines. The turbines were immersed in the millrace and supplied the power for four runs of buhrs to process both wheat and corn. The structure was built with three-and-one-half stories to house all of the milling operations. Adams often kept the mill running day and night to keep up with demand. When the mill was taken over by his two sons in 1860, Adams Mill was producing, on the average, 40 barrels (196 pounds each) a day. The mill was known for its cake flour, which was the result of using a very fine silk screen.

By the 1860's a small community had developed around the mill. The Wildcat post office was located on the second floor of the mill, where it remained until the late 1800's. A chapter of the Masonic Lodge was organized at Adams Mill in June, 1864, and held regular meetings in the mill until 1867, when it moved next door to the general store. Town meetings were also held in the mill. In its heyday, the Bolivar settlement included a cluster of houses, general store, blacksmith shop and grist and saw mills. Bolivar died out when the railroad was built about 1/2 mile away, where the town of Cutler developed.

Levi Bishop bought the mill in 1887 and soon after replaced the flouring buhrs with rollers. It had been proven in other mills that rollers were more efficient and produced a cleaner flour than stones.

The mill retained its importance to the surrounding agricultural community well into the 20th century with its ability to process several types of wheat, as well as corn, into feed and meal. It was not used in the late 1930's and fell into some disrepair. Between 1942 and 1944 it was restored to working condition by John Pritsch and Claude Sheets, two

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local owners, and once again produced flour and meal until stricter federal grain storage laws stopped operations in 1952.

The mill was kept in repair by Sheets, who operated it as a local museum of pioneer relics, including a Conestoga wagon and a Model T Ford, until the early 1970's, when it was sold to the present owner, James Broadhurst. The museum remained open to the public and held occasional cornmeal grinding demonstrations until about four years ago.

Adams Mill remains much as it was when built by John Adams. It was built with quality materials and workmanship to handle the expected volume of grains. In excellent condition, the mill remains as a living example of grist milling in Indiana.

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

Please see continuation sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acres of nominated property 1.31 acres

Quadrangle name Rossville

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UTM References

UTM PER SHAARD

A	1,6	5,4,16,9,0	4,4,8,10,0,0
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B		54,164,6	448,117,1
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C

D

E

F

G

H

Verbal boundary description and justification

Please see continuation sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state	<u>N/A</u>	code	county	code
state		code	county	code

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title William Baugh

organization N/A date 1977

street & number 624 South Street telephone 317/742-6831

city or town Lafayette state Indiana 47901

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national  state  local

As the designated State Historic Preservation Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature John T. Coetz

title Indiana State Historic Preservation Officer date 10-9-84

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I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register

date

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

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County Records

Helm, T. B. History of Carroll County, Indiana, 1882, Chicago: Kingman Brothers.

"Indiana Grist and Flour Mills." Fred Beals, revised 1984.

Odell, John C. History of Carroll County, Indiana, 1916. Indianapolis: B. F. Bowen and Co., Inc.

Personal Records

Item 10

A tract of land laying in the Northwest corner of the East Half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the Southeast Quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section Thirty-four (34) in Township Twenty-four (24) North and Range One (1) West in Democrat Township, Carroll County, Indiana, being more particularly described as follows: Beginning at a point along a line which bears North  $0^{\circ}25'$  West 2628.78 feet from the Southwest corner of the East One Half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) of the Southeast Quarter ( $\frac{1}{4}$ ) of Section Thirty-four (34), Township and Range aforesaid, to the Northwest corner of said East Half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ); thence due East along the Half ( $\frac{1}{2}$ ) Section line 538.20 feet to a spike in the center of a Carroll County Blacktop Road; thence South  $15^{\circ}32'$  East along the center of said Road 417.10 feet; thence South  $31^{\circ}28'$  West 9.85 feet, which is the beginning point; thence leaving said Road and running South  $53^{\circ}55'$  East 186.78 feet; thence North  $54^{\circ}35'$  East 87.12 feet; thence running South  $24^{\circ}43'25''$  East across Wildcat Creek 318.90 feet; thence South  $43^{\circ}35'$  West 52.80 feet; thence running North  $46^{\circ}25'$  West and recrossing Wildcat Creek and following the south side of the old Mill Race for a distance of 597.30 feet to the Westernmost corner of Adams Mill; thence North along the Northwest side of Adams Mill 50 feet; thence South 103.02 feet to the beginning point, containing 1.31 acres, more or less.