

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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: Paint Creek Cider Mill

Other names/site number: N/A

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: 4480 Orion Road

City or town: Oakland Township State: Michigan County: Oakland

Not For Publication: Vicinity:

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

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Signature of certifying official/Title:	Date
<u>MI SHPO</u>	
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government	

In my opinion, the property <u> </u> meets <u> </u> does not meet the National Register criteria.	
<hr/>	
Signature of commenting official:	Date
<hr/>	<hr/>
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>	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	_____	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>2</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

6. Function or Use
Historic Functions

Agriculture/Subsistence: Processing
Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Restaurant

Current Functions

Government: Government Office
Commerce/Trade: Specialty Store
Social: Meeting Hall

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Modern Movement
Other: Swiss Chalet Style

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Materials: Principal exterior materials of the property:

Wood/Weatherboard

Brick

Fieldstone Veneers

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

The Paint Creek Cider Mill is located in the hub of Goodison, a hamlet settled in 1827, Oakland Township, Oakland County, Michigan. The building sits along the banks of the Paint Creek which runs parallel to the southerly building elevation, sandwiched between Orion Road, the main thoroughfare through Goodison. The building is massive in size and spans 200 feet in length, yet narrow and shaped in an L-footprint compound plan. It is three-stories high with steep-pitched gable roof projections, expansive walls of glass windows, angular details and asymmetrical profile that illustrates mid-century modern architecture of the 1950s-1960s. A modern building was unique to the historic settlement and rural community of Goodison. The building utilizes traditional materials such as vertical board-and-batten wood siding, red brick, and a fieldstone chimney climbing 50' tall, and yet also industrial. The material used was industrial in construction technique, reusing huge steel beams salvaged from the Henry Ford Trade School throughout the framing and in open roof projectiles. The final footprint is comprised of three sections of the 'L' and each were built in different years spanning an entire decade; a broad, gable-front water-wheel room 1959, a larger side-gable cider mill operations (foot of the L) 1960, and the connecting narrow "bridge," length of the 'L,' enclosed with walls of windows built in 1969. Design development began by well-known architects, Giffels & Vallet Inc., L. Rossetti in the mid-1950s with Michigan Modern architecture and Swiss chalet style features. The building design was to be impressive in scale and features, which would accentuate a stimulating destination, and capitalize on post-war automobile industry tourism, by drawing crowds into the small town Goodison for fresh pressed cider and donuts.

Narrative Description

Setting

Goodison is located within Oakland County's Oakland Township, Michigan. This area was surveyed by the government in 1817. Oakland County Michigan was organized January 12, 1819 with two townships proclaimed Oakland Township for the north half and Bloomfield Township

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for the south half. A year later, Oakland County was divided into five townships. In 1820, only 330 reported persons lived in Oakland County according to the official census.

Goodison sits in a valley alongside Paint Creek. At the time of white settlement the area was populated by Native Americans, which included the Ojibwa, Ottawa, and Potawatomi; early nineteenth-century maps record their settlements along Paint Creek. Numerous Native American settlements, burial sites, and artifacts throughout Oakland Township have been located by archaeologists from Oakland University. After the Detroit Treaty of 1807 and the conclusion of the War of 1812, settlers began to migrate into the Northwest Territory, including southeast Michigan. The area's topography created two natural entrances to the valley, one from the north and another from the south. A Native American trail paralleled Paint Creek, where Orion Road and Territorial Road now run. The main attraction of the area remained Paint Creek, allowing for travel by canoe to the Clinton River, which flowed to Lake St. Clair and then on to the Great Lakes. The creek also provided, among other useful features, the ability to generate power for milling. Milling operations were important to the development of agriculture in the area and to Goodison's settlement.

Oakland Township's first land purchases were by William Russell (Father Russell) and Benjamin Woodworth (Uncle Ben) on February 18, 1819 and also recorded on March 16, 1819. Oakland Township was organized in 1827 yet changed size and shape until 1837, when it retained its current size. The rolling hills and good soil attracted early settlers to the area by Paint Creek, including Needham Hemingway, a farmer from Chile, Monroe County, New York, who came to Michigan in 1824. Hemingway built the first grist mill in Goodison in 1835.

Goodison is a small unincorporated populated place, commonly called a hamlet, in Oakland Township. Goodison contains a cluster of modest-scale older homes and other buildings on streets that radiate out from the intersection of Collins and Territorial Roads with Orion Road being the main thoroughfare. Goodison is located at the far north edge of the Detroit suburbs, about twenty-five miles straight north of downtown Detroit. The area is suburban living, yet outside of Goodison itself, has larger lots, acres of farm fields, and much undeveloped countryside. Goodison proper is approximately only a few acres nestled in a valley that runs along the Paint Creek, a vital water source to the early Native American inhabitants and following European settlers. Although it has no legal boundaries, the area is generally centered around Orion and Collins Road, bounded by Gunn Road on the North and Snell Road on the South.

Needham Hemingway purchased a total of eighty acres from the federal government on June 4, 1825 in Section 28 which is located in the southern central quadrant of Oakland Township. One of the first settlers to build a frame home, in 1825 Hemingway purchased land and water-rights in Goodison to build a grist mill to operate via water-power from the Paint Creek. In 1835, Hemingway's construction of a grist mill began the long history of milling at the site. In order to divert water from Paint Creek to power the water-wheel at his grist mill, Hemingway dammed Paint Creek and dug a millrace running one-half mile from the northwest. (*History of Oakland County*). A square box flume funneled water into a large penstock that diverted the water to a "drum" or "flag" wheel, into the lower level of the mill, which geared shafts that turned two

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grindstones. His contribution to the settlement of Goodison was due to his engineering the millrace and establishing grist and saw mills for new settlers to provide for sustenance.

The Name Goodison

In 1844 Hemingway sold the gristmill and eighty acres to his sons Freeman and Henry. Between 1846 and 1854 the property passed through several other owners until William Goodison purchased it from W. Green in 1866 for \$3,600. (*Oakland County Deeds*). W. Goodison was born in Manchester, Lancashire, England, in 1806. He and wife Susannah immigrated to New Jersey around 1832 and later moved to Oakland County, Michigan.

In 1872 the Detroit & Bay City Railroad (later a division of the Michigan Central) established its line through the area nearby to the west. With the railroad tracks in place, Goodison built a general store east of the mill. In addition the local blacksmith, Maurice Collins, set up shop, and a post office was established in 1874. That year the railroad established a “flag station” next to the grist mill; the stop and settlement became known as Goodison Station. The railway transported goods and building materials between Detroit and Bay City. In 1876 Goodison built an eighteen-foot addition to the south side of the mill, extending its length to seventy feet. A sawmill was also built east of the grist mill along Paint Creek. Thus Goodison became a busy center for commerce and transportation by the late 1870s.

William Goodison died in 1879. By 1881 his estate sold the mill property to Joseph Ramie and Samuel Barnes. The Barnes family owned the mill thirty-two years. In 1913 they sold it to Cramer and Bingham, who renamed it Oakland Mills and produced pure stone-ground buckwheat flour. Cramer and Bingham upgraded the milling operations functions with new technology at the time and added a Leffel & Samson turbine to harness more power from the millrace.

By 1900, the area of Goodison furthered its reputation as a center for transportation when the Detroit United Railway, Flint Division, interurban electric railway lines, traveling north through Oxford to Flint, made its stop in Goodison.

In 1916 local blacksmith Maurice Collins purchased the mill, general store and added a new sawmill to the grist mill’s south. With Collins’ death in 1941, the mill ceased grinding grist, but it still housed machinery used for making other products, such as potato crates and frames for shipping automobile wheels. From 1941 to 1945 widow Ellen Collins (Maurice wife) and Clara and Frank Voll, Collins’ daughter and son-in-law, owned and operated the mill, general store, blacksmith shop, and a box factory located across the road.

Dale Millers Vision of the Paint Creek Cider Mill

In 1945 Dale O. Miller, Sr., purchased sixty acres of the former Hemingway-Goodison property from the Volls. This included the entire complex; original grist mill, general store, sawmill and blacksmith shop, and the factory across Territorial Road that would become the new home for D. Miller’s factory called the Rochester Gear Works.

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Dale Miller had grand dreams for the grist mill. He planned to restore the mill into a new use of cider mill operations and electrical generation. Hiring well-known architects Giffels and Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti for design development, the first designs restored the original grist mill and entailed a massive exterior overshot water wheel. (*110-Year Old Mill will be Restored*). Yet, the 110 –year old buildings deteriorated condition became a reality, and Miller changed his hopes in favor of building a new cider mill building that would reuse salvaged material from the old grist mill to supplement the structure, and retain some of the history of the original grist mill. The deconstruction happened in 1953 with massive wooden beams stored for later use, along with other components including the Leffel & Samson turbine, much of which Miller planned to incorporate into the new building.

The Paint Creek Cider Mill – the production of cider

Oakland County has over 25,000 acres of farmland, excellent topography which aided in fruit tree production. After WWII, there were more apple trees in Oakland County than in any other county in the Nation (*MSU Extension*). Historically, the state of Washington produces the most apples, while Michigan is third, trailing closely behind New York. The Michigan State flower is the apple blossom for good reason. It was very common in the first half of the 20th century for farming populations to have diverse fruit farms called “kitchen orchards” which produced enough harvest for the extended family. Apple juice became highly sought after for health benefits, and even hard cider used to be served to all ages as a source of vitamin C. When Prohibition was enacted in 1919, hard cider production declined to 13 million gallons, down from 55 million gallons in 1899. (*Cider, Hard and Sweet*).

Cider History in America

In New England by 1776, one out of every ten farms operated its own cider mill. Cider flourished in the American climate due to early settlers preferred the sweet taste compared to the local water supply which may have been polluted. Apple trees could be grown anywhere in America and cider quickly became America’s national drink. In the 17th century, apple varieties brought as seeds from North Europe were spread along Native American trade routes. (*Cider, Hard and Sweet*).

After WWII ended, American’s had more leisure time for entertainment and recreational activities. In the 1950s and 1960s there was a population growth with a shift towards general public interest for tourist attractions and weekend destinations.

Apple crop production began to change from kitchen orchards to more retail sales with the increase in population and demands. Small family fruit farms began to grow into income producing orchards. Two of the most significant cider mills in Oakland County are Franklin Cider Mill, dating from 1837, and Yates Cider Mill built in 1863. The ease of access to delivering and transporting farm products to metropolitan, urban areas of Detroit, Michigan made it convenient for farmers in the outlying communities to distribute their produce.

Today, Oakland County has eleven cider mills with Oakland Township calling home to three: Rochester Cider Mill, Goodison Cider Mill and Paint Creek Cider Mill. Rochester Cider Mill was originally Sargent Fruit Farm purchased by the Sargent family in 1938 and operated as an

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orchard, cider mill and farm market. Goodison Cider Mill also began as a tiny road-side farm market in the late 1950s and began pressing cider in 1962 after the building was enlarged. Paint Creek Cider Mill finally opened its doors to serving fresh cider in 1960 after it took fifteen years for Dale Miller's vision to come to fruition. (*Birmingham Eccentric 1960*). Interestingly, Dale Miller also purchased Sargent's Cider Mill in 1964, his second cider mill, located in the southeast quadrant of Oakland Township. The Paint Creek Cider Mill and Goodison Cider Mill, are located within a half mile from each, and both on Orion Road, both had apples delivered from off-site orchards for pressing. The low valley topography in Goodison was not prime for growing fruit trees, however, the mill location was more traditionally known as a central gathering place for commerce, and therefore the cider mill became a popular destination. From a Pontiac Free Press article *Goodison History Centers on Mill*, Dale Miller boasts thousands of gallons of cider, 600 dozen donuts per hour capabilities, and upwards of ten thousand visitors each weekend during the fall cider season. He brought a lucrative business to small-town Goodison, and capitalized on the post-war economic boom.

The only Architecture of its kind in Goodison

The Paint Creek Cider Mill looks like no other building in the historic hamlet of Goodison. It was designed by well-known architect-engineering firm over a decade time period of planning. In the initial design development, Dale Miller hired Giffels & Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti in the early 1950s to restore the original grist mill and incorporate the use of a water wheel to provide apple cider operations.

Victor Vallet and Raymond Giffels both worked together early in their engineering careers at the office of Albert Kahn in Detroit, Michigan. (*Business Week May 23, 1953 page 96*). They worked over adjoining drafting boards in Kahn's office during the building boom of the 1920s. (*Baum, 79*) They resigned from Kahn's office on June 23, 1925 to form their own company. (*Detroit Free Press Dec.18, 1959*). Much of their early work was for Ford Motor Company. Louis Rossetti, born in Paris in 1895, an architect trained in Rome, had migrated to Detroit in the 1920s and later worked as a designer for Ford Motor Company. Giffels and Vallet hired Rossetti, the young architect, who was being laid off from the Ford Motor Company in 1928. The new firm became Giffels and Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti and represents an incorporated partnership between a firm and an architect. They grew from three employees to two hundred before the Great Depression came in the fall of 1929. The firm recovered in 1934 and diversified their clientele. The three strived to commingle its architectural designs with its engineering functions to enhance that modern manufacturing plants can be structured according to their production. This new combined function of the firm has been referred to as "archineer or engitect." (*Sat. Eve Post page 36*).

During the 1940s, the firm Giffels & Vallet Inc., L Rossetti was instrumental in the conversion of many industrial facilities to wartime production. In 1947, Giffels & Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti accepted the first of many nuclear projects for the Manhattan Engineering District. Some of their other projects include the Ford Motor Company Aircraft Engine Plant and Tool and Die Building, GE's Electronic Park, and the Cyclotron Building. By 1953, their work entailed "\$35-million for steel and foundries, \$16-million for rubber and plastics, \$58-million in aluminum and magnesium, \$10-million in chemicals, \$20-million in auto assembly, \$27-million inn

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miscellaneous manufacturing, \$8-million for public works, and \$5-million for offices.” (*Business Week*, page 98). In 1946, they began working for the Atomic Energy Commissioner, and those contracts amounted to \$1.5 billion over a seven years period. Vallet insisted that ten percent of jobs should be for a school, hospital, Church, public building, or other non-industrial project. (*Sat. Eve Post* page 78). Victor Vallet retired in January 1957 and the firm was renamed Giffels and Rossetti.

How did the Architects come to design the Paint Creek Cider Mill?

Raymond Giffels happened to be a neighbor of Dale Millers from Birmingham, Michigan. Miller’s admiration for Swiss chalet styling embodied in the Paint Creek Cider Mill building was inspired by a then recent vacation in Switzerland. Miller appreciated the modernized version of Swiss chalet design in traditional wooden chalet architecture with its broadly projecting gable roofs, use of balconies, and extensive windows. The resulting building succeeded, Swiss in inspiration but contemporary in design. It was built using steel framing but finished in traditional materials such as wood vertical board-and-batten and fieldstone. The Paint Creek Cider Mill has been a landmark unique in the greater area of Goodison in its architecture since its construction.

Mid-century modern is closely associated with the period between the mid-1950s through the early 1960s. The style appealed to everyone and the affluent hired the best architects of the day to design and build impressive buildings. The use of expansive walls of glass, clean lines and the use of vertical exterior siding panels are prevalent styles of modernism in the Paint Creek Cider Mill. Swiss-style buildings and Swiss vernacular architecture were notable at the World Fair Columbian Exposition in Chicago 1893 and at the Geneva National Exhibition of 1896. Defining characteristics of the traditional buildings are the wooden construction, prominent gables with broad roof overhangs. Two most dominant features are the use of balconies and broad gable peaks. Swiss chalet style has an association to ski lodges and recreational activities, more so than cider milling operations. The Paint Creek Cider Mill is unique in its architecture in Goodison and in all of Oakland Township. There are no other commercial buildings that have similar architecture, grandiose large scale and presence as the Paint Creek Cider Mill.

A remarkable feature was the extension of the porch roof overhang which allowed for a young tree to grow through an opening in the roof. Instead of cutting the tree down, the building was built around the single Black Locust Tree. Many locals loved the tree, the smell of the bloom in the spring, and not knowing the reasons why this tree was spared being cut down, it was incorporated into the roof opening, and eventually grew into a point of direction for Goodison. The tree was cared for with special gutter system that watered the root system, yet in 1999 when the roof opening began to show signs of water damage deterioration, the tree was removed.

Paint Creek Cider Mill Construction

The building complex has three sections. The northeast building section containing the ‘Wheel Room’ was the first built in 1959. It has a broad but not deep, gable-front form, with ground dimensions of seventy feet in front but only twenty-six feet deep. It has a lean-to roof, with much longer right-hand slope, with the lower eaves only a story above ground level, compared to the left-hand roof slope, with its lower eaves resting atop the second story end wall.

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The building's due east Cider Mill section, built in 1960 to house both cider mill operations and restaurant, has its rear façade aligned with the Wheel Room rear façade. Its ground dimensions are sixty-five feet across the front and forty-nine feet in depth; thus this section's front wall projects more than twenty feet beyond the Wheel Room section's front, giving the footprint and appearance of an "L". The Cider Mill part of the building has a side-gable roof. Like the Wheel Room's, its roof also has a lean-to form, with the front roof slope much longer than the rear, sheltering a deep, ground-story porch across that section's entire front. In back, the rear slope's lower eave rests atop the second story creek side. The roofs' gable end eaves project eight feet beyond the walls in the Cider Mill section of the building and about a five foot projection in the Wheel Room building section.

These two "end" sections of the building are separated by a distance of sixty-one feet, but in 1969 the third joining section was added, comprised of a narrow three-story glassed-in gallery or "bridge." The addition also included an enclosed entry vestibule and two-story corridor. A horizontal concrete slab balcony, between the first and second story, projects three feet outward from the bridge's street façade above the ground story, and has hardware for six flagpoles. The flags have a stately effect, honoring the site with pride and importance.

The 1959 Wheel Room section was designed around the function of having a water-powered, water wheel, a feature owner Dale O. Miller, Sr., wanted to have included to generate a small amount of water-power to serve as a symbolic continuation of the long history of water-power operation at the site. The water wheel was a steel breast-shot wheel made by the Fitz Waterwheel Company in 1957. Later, in 1990 this wheel required replacing due to the metal rust and a wood wheel was custom fabricated. Miller had higher expectations for water-power, and even built a turbine chamber under the floor of the Wheel Room, which was never utilized.

The Paint Creek Cider Mill utilizes steel framing that includes roof trusses. The gabled roofs of the Wheel Room and Cider Mill sections are framed with steel ten-inch tall I-beam purlins, spaced about ten feet apart, which project into the gable ends. The roof decking is made of two-inch thick, six to seven-inch tongue-and-groove boards. The steel beams and roofing planks were purchased by Dale O. Miller from the sale of salvaged material when the Henry Ford Trade School in Detroit closed.

The building's foundations are concrete block and poured concrete. The exterior walls, except for the rear facades of the Wheel Room and Cider Mill sections overlooking Paint Creek, are finished in vertical rough-sawn wood, board-and-batten siding. The rear façade is faced mostly in red-orange brick, as is the below-window-level base of the bridge. Exterior finishes also include fieldstone, most prominently in the projecting chimney stack in the front façade of the Wheel Room. The chimney projects twenty-eight inches from the building façade, has a breadth of 108 inches, and rises fifty feet, cutting through the roof and projecting to the height of the Wheel Room roof ridge. The chimney is built of fieldstone veneers, many massive in size. The roofs are clad in dark grey, asphalt shingling, shaped in a small square pattern.

The building has three entrances, all located beneath the Cider Mill section's broad and deep front porch. One enters into the cider mill/café area, a single middle one serves as the exit for

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that same area, and the third entrance leads into an enclosed vestibule. This last entrance, and furthest from the parking area, leads into the corridor that serves as the access to the meeting spaces and upstairs township offices that occupy the rest of the building.

An abundance of large windows are key features of the Paint Creek Cider Mill and also characteristic of Swiss chalet architecture. The three-story bridge gallery is lined with five-by-five-foot fixed windows on both sides of the approximately fifteen-foot wide passage in each story. There are eight windows on each side in the lower story and nine in the second and they each contain nine lights in three-by-three configuration. These walls of windows face the creek-side and also the street façade on Orion Road. Most visible and noteworthy among the complex's windows is a two-story tall bank of windows formed of side-by-side fixed-pane sash, with five across, each sash containing twelve lights. These windows make up the north side of the Wheel Room and face Orion Road.

Interior

The building today primarily houses a café called the Paint Creek Cider Mill and Oakland Township's governmental offices and meeting spaces. The café includes a large kitchen, counter space, walk-in freezer, ice-cream counter, and seating area. Three separate entrance and exit doors are located under the expansive front porch.

Off the corridor directly inside the farthest door from the parking area is a vestibule entrance that contains an elevator which was the only exterior addition in 2007-2008 renovation of the building to provide accessibility to the second floor office space. Against the building's rear façade overlooking the creek, the corridor makes a right-hand turn and, passing through the long, glass-lined bridge, provides access to the Wheel Room area of the building.

The building's interior benefits from the reuse of a variety of salvaged material from the old mill and other remnants. Much of the interior walls and ceilings are finished in ten-inch vertical planks of Pecky Cypress wood, prized for its decorative worm-hole profile. A smaller parlor/conference room also has interesting, decorative interior walls with solid oak wainscot, salvaged from now demolished Grosse Pointe homes.

The Paint Creek Cider Mill's ground story features stained glass windows that were designed later in 2001 by the Williams Art Glass Studio in nearby Oxford, Michigan (Michigan Stained Glass census 2003.0011), working with artist Art Nowoski. The designs depict a colorful trout fishing scene in honor of the Paint Creek, a cold-water trout stream. Other decorative interior features include oak plinth door trim, hand-made by William G. Mancour, and a hand painted canvas mural by Jim Jeffries, which outlines the local history of the grist mill and the Detroit United Railway (DUR) interurban stop in Goodison on its route from Detroit to Flint.

Dale O. Miller, Sr. owner Paint Creek Cider Mill 1945 to 1976

Dale O. Miller, Sr., a local entrepreneur who greatly impacted the development of the Goodison area, purchased the site of the old grist mill in 1945. Miller (1897-1986) was born near Belmore, Ohio. His family had moved from Germany to Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, in 1852, and later moved to the Columbus, Ohio, area and then to Belmore. Miller spent his early years on his

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parents' farm. His father was, in Miller's written words, "an excellent mechanic and ... inventive." Miller recounted that his father was adept at harnessing the technology at hand for domestic use. One of his projects was to rig up a gas engine-powered clothes washing machine. He was also his own mechanic using a coal forge and hand-driven drill press from Sears to make repairs. Part of his income came from repairs on steam engines and threshers used on local area's farms. (*Miller's Musings*, 9, 17).

In his youth, Dale Miller also took a special interest in technology. His first job after high school in 1915 was at a munitions plant in Toledo. "My boss and his boss liked me and taught me how to run every machine in the plant so they could shift me in case of absenteeism." Miller entered Ohio State University in the fall of 1915 and graduated in 1920 with a degree in Electrical Engineering. (*Miller's Musings*, 23). After a stint teaching electrical engineering at Cass Tech in Detroit, he entered the oil burner business in the 1920s. Miller's firm, Simplex Engineering, marketed oil burners for homes, and had clients Edsel Ford and the Booths. The company provided burners for a variety of important Detroit area clients; Temple Beth El, Arden Park Manor, Ford, GM, Chrysler, Willow Run, Greenfield Village, and the Bob-lo boats. Miller's son, Dale Miller, Jr., was president of Simplex Engineering by 1936.

Prior to World War II, Miller established the Rochester Gear Works in Rochester, not far from Goodison, three miles to the south. Miller also acquired a bronze and aluminum foundry at Imlay City and established the Brisk Foundry & Machine Co. to serve Rochester Gear Work's needs. During World War II, Miller's Rochester Gear Works boasted, "we produced over 1,400 worms for the famous 155 millimeter howitzers with which General Patton and the other U.S. generals so completely paralyzed and pulverized the enemy in battles of France and Germany. Worms for more than 2,200 90 millimeter anti-aircraft guns were made. Gears for more than 125,000 winches were produced for the armed forces, the firm achieving a national reputation for its close-tolerance work in this field." (*The Rochester Era*, Dec. 6, 1945). Miller stated that these worm gear castings, the elevating mechanisms, for the 90 MM guns each weighed 150 pounds and were made of manganese aluminum bronze. Miller stated that ten foundries had contracts for these, but were unsuccessful in meeting requirements, so that his company Rochester Gear Works, eventually produced nearly all of the worms. (*Miller's Musings*, 41).

In late 1945, Rochester Gear Works moved to its new location in Goodison. The purchase of this factory and land included all the buildings across the street, Orion Road, which entailed an old blacksmith shop, empty store, and Goodison's original grist mill.

A New Life for the Grist Mill

Like the Rochester Gear Works, the Paint Creek Cider Mill strongly reflects Dale O. Miller, Sr.'s, lifelong, strong, interest in engineering and technology. The property included the millrace and water power rights to the grist mill. Already at the time of the Rochester Gear Works open house in December 1945, Miller stated that he planned to rebuild the old mill – "Men are busy now clearing out the debris." He said, "We are going to clean up the whole place, rebuild the 125-year-old mill, install a modern waterwheel and a modern generator to produce electricity for lighting the streets and buildings around Goodison, using the old mill race which the early settlers dug 125 years ago." (*The Rochester Era*, Dec. 6, 1945). A December 12, 1945 story in

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The Pontiac Daily Press reported that Miller had actually “awarded the contract” for the mill’s restoration. (*110 Year Old Mill Will Be Restored*).

Despite this report, the old mill building continued to deteriorate. A 1945 photo shows the dilapidated mill, with sections of clapboarding that have disappeared. By the mid-1950s Miller considered the building too far gone to repair. Instead of his plans for restoration, in 1953 he had the building dismantled piece by piece, salvaging timbers and other materials he could reuse in its reconstruction. Miller searched for salvaged building materials and equipment to incorporate into the building in order to save money but also, one has to think, because he enjoyed being resourceful, discovering useful and interesting items for display. From Miller’s personal records he stated, “Everything was reused. Nobody could afford new steel and machinery.” In addition to wooden beams salvaged from the old mill, the complex utilizes much other salvaged material. Miller obtained steel truss material and two-by-six-inch tongue-and-groove boards for the roofs from the sale of material when Walter Reuther closed the Henry Ford Trade School. Steel sash windows and oak wainscot were other features salvaged from older buildings in the Detroit area being demolished or remodeled.

The mill, in its steel and concrete construction using framing members purposefully retained from the nineteenth-century mill that had stood at the site, and its self-conscious adoption of old industrial technology to serve today’s purposes, the mill makes a far stronger and more personal statement about Miller himself. He wanted to invest in a unique cider mill for the community of Goodison, and one that would draw crowds and attract business.

The initial Wheel Room building was architecturally designed for a purpose, to serve in part as a power-house for electric power generation. It is interconnected to the Paint Creek millrace, and Miller obtained a five-foot wide, fifteen-foot-diameter steel waterwheel made in 1957 by the Fitz Waterwheel Co., King of Prussia, Pennsylvania. Miller also had an interior turbine pit installed under the floor in the building that was never utilized. The steel exterior, breast shot water-wheel was installed just outside the front, street facade of the Wheel Room. Miller said of the waterwheel and power-generation system he installed: “It takes two men to lift one spoke. It rotates 10 RPM (revolutions per minute). I found a speed increaser gear box made by the Philadelphia Gear Works. The second step was belts. The wheel generated electricity using an 1890 Bi-Polar generator made by Thomas A. Edison (Serial No. 544) and donated by Henry Ford, Sr. The Edison Bi-Polar D.C. 110 Volt generator runs at about 1500 RPM, 8.6 kilowatt direct current.” (*Miller’s Musings, 44*).

The interior space in the Wheel Room building featured knob and tube light fixtures with carbon filament bulbs and emerald green shades, all powered by the waterwheel. When the building was first built, Miller allowed his factory employees from across the road at Rochester Gear Works to use as a place to enjoy their lunchtime meals. Later, for only a few years, it housed Bailiwick’s Antiques, a gifts and antiques shop that was located on the second floor of the mill.

The Paint Creek Cider Mill was part of Miller’s original plan, intended to attract tourists for cider and donuts and to display his collection of unique antiques. Miller was a huge collector and purchased many artifacts that are still on display in the front porch area of the mill. Some of

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these artifacts include Silas Overpack logging wheels to reminisce local lumber industry and sawmill at the site. Also on display is a carved statue of an Indian, which is one of five rare statues from the Hedges Wigwam restaurant in Royal Oak, Michigan, a large bronze bell cast in 1847 by the Meneely Foundry, West Troy, New York, and an amazing 200-year old hand-carved screw-press with massive hand-hewn beams. Later donations by local residents whom had saved local relics from the site, donated their return to display in the mill. Two of these items on display are the original Goodison General Store counter from 1877, and the local blacksmith anvil belonging to Maurice Collins. These later donations were from Raymond Waite, who grew up in Goodison, and used to wash and wax Millers automobile for \$6 an hour. Other donations were from George Lyon, of Lyon Gear Company, who purchase the site of the Rochester Gear Works factory and is still in operation today, one of the very few industrial industries in Oakland Township. George Lyon was an employee of Dale Miller's in the 1940s. Also on display at the wheel pond is a lone grinding stone, original to the 1835 grist mill, as a reminder of the milling heritage and settlement of Goodison.

History Subsequent to Dale O. Miller, Sr.

In 1976 William G. (Jerry) and Lucy Mancour purchased the Paint Creek Cider Mill from Miller. Mancour and Miller were friends, they had met at the hardware store Mancour had owned in West Bloomfield, Michigan. Miller appreciated Mancour's commercial expertise and after several years of perseverance, Miller talked Mancour into buying the cider mill business. The Mancour family owned the mill from 1976 until 1996. During their ownership they worked to expand the cider mill operation to include a small restaurant. Cider mill operations blossomed in the Oakland County area during this time period and drew large crowds on weekends. On fall weekends, cars packed the mill's parking lot and lines formed while families waited to purchase cider, donuts, and baked goods.

During the 1970s and 1980s the millrace and waterwheel continued to operate and the power was used for interpretation of DC water-power, and still lighted the emerald green carbon filament bulbs in the wheel room. By the 1980s the Mancours had renamed the complex the "Paint Creek Cider Mill and Restaurant," adding a restaurant, pub, and banquet facility to the cider mill operations.

By the early 1990s, the 1957 Fitz waterwheel was showing signs of deterioration. After attempting and failing to find someone to restore the wheel, Mancour replaced it with the wooden wheel that remains in place today. The new wheel, patterned after the 1957 wheel, has forty-eight white oak paddles and weighs over two tons. In a *Detroit Free Press* article, Scott Simons, a Detroit Edison spokesman, stated the restored wheel could generate enough power to light two houses. Mancour maintained all the working functions of providing waterpower from the Paint Creek millrace to deliver water to the mill. He maintained the headrace where the water diverted from Paint Creek, the millrace, sluice box, penstock, forebay, waterwheel, turbine pit, mechanical pit, and tailrace where the water exited back into the Paint Creek.

In 1996 Raymond J. and Mary Nicholson purchased the complex from the Mancour Family. They continued its function as a central gathering place for Goodison being a well-known cider mill and restaurant. In 1998, the working forebay that directed water over the wheel was

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disconnected and removed. Nicholson installed a new electrical switch to turn the wheel which replaced the water-powered turning wheel. The generator is on display, and sits next to the crank-shaft. The water-wheel continues to turn to the delight of guests, and shares a symbolism of our past heritage at the site.

Nicholson donated the building to Oakland Township in late 2005. The township hired architect John Dziurman of John Dziurman Architects, Ltd., to spearhead the adaptive reuse of the building to accommodate second-level offices and accessibility. In 2006 an elevator addition alongside the Cider Mill building was added to provide barrier-free public access to the second story and comply with the Americans with Disabilities Act. The second level is currently used as office space for Oakland Township and local non-profit offices. The first-level cider mill space is currently leased to the Paint Creek Cider Mill, LLC. Many residents identify with the Paint Creek Cider Mill site, which remains an important gathering place for people in surrounding communities. The café serves cider and donuts and baked goods, as well as ice cream, sandwiches, and pizza. The mill business benefits from pedestrian foot traffic as it is located adjacent to the Paint Creek Trail, a designated component of the State of Michigan Iron Belle Trail network.

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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

Commerce

Period of Significance

1959-69

Significant Dates

1959

1960

1969

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above.)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Giffels & Vallet, Inc., Engineers/Architects, L. Rossetti, Associate

Giffels & Rossetti, Engineers/Architects

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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.)

The Paint Creek Cider Mill meets National Register criterion A for its significant contributions to the local development in Goodison, and for criterion C for its unique architecture designed by well-known architects Giffels & Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti, later called Giffels and Rossetti. The periods of significance date from 1959-1969, which is centered on the building construction dates, although cider mill operations have continued for fifty-nine years.

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

Commerce

The Paint Creek Cider Mill is an important part of Goodison's history for its association with commerce in the development of bringing cider mill business to the site, continuing the milling history of the site, and significant contribution to the local history and development of Goodison. From its very beginnings, the Paint Creek Cider Mill has been an integral part of Goodison and Oakland Township. After WWII, there was a period of population growth and strong economic expansion. In the United States, the Gross national product jumped from about \$200 thousand-million in 1940 to \$300 thousand-million in 1950 to more than \$500 thousand-million in 1960. The number of automobiles produced increased by quadruple numbers from 1946 to 1955. (*The Post War Economy*). There was increased time for leisure activities and recreation. The availability of the automobile grew with better transportation to encounter new destinations. The Highway Act of 1956 provided for the development of I-75, a direct route from Detroit to Oakland County. The extension of better roads to access Oakland County suburbs and encounter new destinations all aided in supporting local tourism. Local cider mills became increasingly popular and were visited by tens of thousands of people on fall weekends.

The Paint Creek Cider Mill also celebrates its commemorative history at this location due to its association with the growth of Goodison. On May 16, 1982 a historic plaque presentation was awarded to Mr. Mancour in celebration of the Hemingway mill site, commemorating the history of the original mill. On behalf of members from the Oakland Township Historical Society, Mrs. Alice Tombouljian, a Township Parks Commissioner at the time, presented a bronze plaque in prepared statement, "Mr. Mancour has understood the community's goals for Goodison as a viable commercial center within a valid historical context. Goodison has served and should continue to serve the business needs of Oakland Township peoples and our visitors with a unique style." Attending the ceremony was Needham Hemingway's great granddaughter, Mary Hemingway Hayes. The plaque is mounted on the exterior façade of the Paint Creek Cider Mill.

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Dale Miller's 1959-69 Paint Creek Cider Mill building is a unique, idiosyncratic building that reflects the vision of its original owner and his interest in technology, new and old. When the old mill proved too deteriorated, Miller decided to replace it with a new structure that would provide local cider mill operations, unique artifacts to reminisce over, and the turning water wheel to invite the passerby. His intentions were to provide a local cider mill for Goodison, one with relevant local history, and attract crowds for a successful business during this period of economic growth following WWII. Miller filled the mill with artifacts to tell the story of years gone past. The Paint Creek Cider Mill shares a past history at this location with the development of Goodison. Today the Paint Creek Cider Mill continues to provide a central gathering space for the sale of cider of donuts, café operations and restaurant, meeting space, business location for local non-profits, and government offices all nestled along the Paint Creek. In addition, exhibitions and local events have included Edward Noble photography exhibits, 'Our History Centers on the Mill' by the Oakland Township Historical Society. A community-wide 'Nature Near You' photography fundraiser by Six Rivers Land Conservancy, and 'Paint Creek Crawl', summer 20-mile bike ride on the Paint Creek Trail with stops at the mill by the Paint Creek Trialways Commission, are a few, among the many, other activities surrounding the mill. The Society for the Preservation of Old Mills assigns number MI-0063-009 in its registration listings.

Architecture

The Paint Creek Cider Mill is unique in design and the only style of building in Goodison. Dale O. Miller, Sr., sought to enhance the Paint Creek Cider Mill with a distinctive architectural character, massive in scale. The resulting building, Swiss in inspiration but contemporary in design, and built using steel framing but finished in traditional materials such as vertical board-and-batten and fieldstone, has been a landmark unique in the area since its construction. Constructed in phases in the 1959-69 period, the building meets criterion C for its highly distinctive architectural design. The physical integrity of the building is intact with only minimal changes in 2007 for the addition of an elevator shaft to have access to the second floor office space. The building represents the only mid-century modern, Swiss chalet architecture in Goodison.

Miller had connections with his neighbor in Birmingham, Michigan Raymond F. (Ray) Giffels of the Detroit firm Giffels & Vallet, Inc., L. Rossetti, Associate, Engineers and Architects. The firm also specialized in large-scale industrial and engineering projects in Michigan including Lincoln-Mercury automobile plant in Wayne County (1952), University of Michigan Automotive Lab in Ann Arbor (1955), McNamara Terminal at Detroit's Metro Airport (1958), and Cobo Hall and Convention Center (1960). (*Koyl (1956), 475, and (1962), 600*). Victor Vallet retired in January 1957 and the firm was renamed Giffels and Rossetti. Louis Rossetti's son, Louis Gino Rossetti (Gino), born in Detroit in 1934, joined the firm in 1955, four years before completing his education in architecture and engineering at the University of Michigan and University of Detroit. (*Koyl (1962), 600-01*). Gino Rossetti stated that he contributed to the design of the Paint Creek Cider Mill and recalled it as being one of his first design projects working for the firm. Giffels & Vallet Inc., L. Rossetti designed all parts of the building, including the 1969 connecting bridge.

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In 1969, Giffels and Rossetti parted to form individual firms; Giffels Associates in Detroit, Michigan and Rossetti Associates, located in Southfield, Michigan. Both businesses have remained an integral part of Detroit's industrial history.

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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 # _____

Primary location of additional data:

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other
- Name of repository: _____

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned): _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of Property 1.98 acres for mill site

Use either the UTM system or latitude/longitude coordinates

Latitude/Longitude Coordinates (decimal degrees)

Datum if other than WGS84: _____

(Enter coordinates to 6 decimal places)

Mill Building:

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| 1. Latitude: 42.732562/42.732925 | Longitude: 83.162053/83.162754 |
| 2. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 3. Latitude: | Longitude: |
| 4. Latitude: | Longitude: |

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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 Paint Creek Cider Mill property extends northwest to southeast, along the east side of the Paint Creek bank, on Orion Road at the southern end of Collins Road, to Gallagher Road on the south side of Orion Road in Goodison. The flume/slucice box and millrace continue west of Gallagher Road between Paint Creek and Orion Road. Michigan Historic Marker L2105 (Log Number 1354) marks the location of the flume/slucice box with a "trail" extending northwest along the millrace. In township records, the parcel appears as PIN 10-28-426-009 for the Paint Creek Mill and PIN 10-28-251-003 for the flume/slucice and State Historical marker for the Paint Creek Mill Race.

Legal Description:

T4N, R11E, SEC 28 SUPERVISOR'S PLAT NO 1 LOT 37 EXC BEG AT SW LOT COR, TH ALG CURVE CONCAVE SWLY, RAD 3129.57 FT, CHORD BEARS N 39-41-27 W 223 FT, DIST OF 223.05 FT, TH S 67-27-03 E 99.49 FT, TH S 48-47-10 E 169.52 FT, TH S 74-13-10 W 80 FT TO BEG, ALSO THAT PART OF PENN-CENTRAL RAILROAD R/W BEG AT NW COR OF SD LOT 37, TH S 47-51-30 E 23.61 FT, TH ALG CURVE CONCAVE SWLY, RAD 3154.57 FT, CHORD BEARS S 45-24-23 E 269.92 FT, DIST OF 270 FT, TH N 77-13-20 W 77.90 FT, TH N 42-35-58 W 231.65 FT, TH N 52-38-35 E 29 FT TO BEG 3-22-02 FR 001 & 503-012

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Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected.)

Physical features and political designations using the Paint Creek and area roads of Orion, Gallagher, and Collins delineate these natural site boundaries.

11. Form Prepared By

Name/title: Barbara Barber, Historic Preservation Planner for Oakland Township
Haley McAlpine, Eastern Michigan University student intern 2016-2017
Andrea (Rost) Kush, Eastern Michigan University student intern 2014

Organization: Oakland Township Historic District Commission

Street & number: 4393 Collins Road

City or town: Oakland Township state: MI zip code: 48306

E-mail: bbarber@oaklandtownship.org

Telephone: 248-608-6807

Date: January 2018 (revised), July 2018 (revised)

Also to be noted as contributors to this National Register Nomination:

Also contributing to this form in preparation and research over a period of several years: Oakland Township Historical Society (Dr. Tom Asmus, Colleen Barkham, Sue Fox, William Kroger, Jeanne Phillips, Janine Saputo); Oakland Township Historic District Commission (Gene Ferrera, David A. Phillips, John Sanderson, Josiane Whitson, Judy Workings); Oakland Township Historic District Study Committee (Jan Derry, Susan Knudsen, Jean Kroger, Jean Lyons, Bruce Parkinson); Eastern Michigan University student research of Goodison Survey 1998 at direction of Dr. Ted Ligibel; John Dziurman Architects for The Goodison Plan, Deborah Remer, Society for the Preservation of Old Mills, Jan Olson (resident) and William (Jerry) Mancour (mill owner). And major contributor, Robert O. Christensen, 2014 Preliminary submission, editor of the 2016 NRN submittal submitted for review on January 2017.

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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.

Attached.

- **Additional items:** (Check with the SHPO, TPO, or FPO for any additional items.)

Attachments:

Photographic map as photo log.

Bibliography cited copies of Primary and Secondary documents.

Letter of Owner Support.

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: Paint Creek Cider Mill

City or Vicinity: Oakland Township

County: Oakland State: Michigan

Photographer: Various

Date Photographed: Various Dates

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Description of Photograph(s) and number, include description of view indicating direction of camera: 1 of 19 photos with information.

Photograph Reference:

1. Paint Creek Cider Mill view from Collins Road looking towards the SW. Photographer J. Saputo. Date March 2011.
2. Paint Creek Cider Mill SE angle full length of building. B. Barber 2016.
3. Wheel Room north façade, cameral view south. B. Barber 2016.
4. Wheel Room view north, creek side. B. Barber 2016.
5. Water Wheel details A and B. B. Barber July, 2016 and May 2015.
6. Bridge connector, view south. B. Barber 2016.
7. Paint Creek Cider Mill view to west. B. Barber 2016.
8. Porch area under roof. B. Barber 2016.
9. Paint Creek Cider Mill creek side. View north. B. Barber 2016.
10. Giffels and Rossetti Professional photo under eave with D. Miller Sr. standing on bridge. General view looking SW. From Giffels and Rossetti Architects Engineers. Photographer unknown. 1960.
11. Giffels and Rossetti Professional photo prior to bridge connector construction. General view from north. From Giffels and Rossetti Architects Engineers. Photographer unknown. 1960.
12. Dale O. Miller Sr. standing at his factory Rochester Gear Works which he purchased with the Paint Creek Mill building, and other structures, in 1945. Photographer not known. Date c. late 1970s.
13. Interior entrance first floor. B. Barber 2016.
14. Interior small conference room space first floor. Windows overlook the porch. B. Barber 2016.
15. Bridge connector hallway first floor, view to W. B. Barber 2015.
16. Wheel Room interior first floor, used as large conference room. B. Barber 2016.
17. Cider Mill interior first floor. View to East. B. Barber 2015.
18. Bridge connector second floor office space. B. Barber 2015.
19. Cider Mill roof pitch second floor office space. B. Barber 2015.

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.