

Operations Manual for the McCormick Grist Mill

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Abstract

The McCormick Grist Mill located at the Shenandoah Valley Agricultural Research and Education Center of Virginia Tech in Steeles Tavern, Virginia, was rehabilitated and stabilized to operational condition in 1997. The mill is a two and one-half story log structure built around 1800 by the McCormick family. It is powered by a 5.2 m diameter (17 ft.) overshot water wheel. Two sets of stones are located on the second level of the mill, one for grinding corn and barley and one for grinding wheat. Both sets of stones have a quarter dress (the arrangement of grooves in the bed stone and the runner stone). Water for powering the mill is supplied from an impoundment of Marl Creek 160 m (525 ft.) above the mill and delivered through an underground smooth bore pipe raceway. This operations manual was prepared to serve the volunteer millers who operate the grist mill at selected times during the year. Further, this manual will serve as general introduction to those interested in basic grist mill operations.

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