

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
EVALUATION/RETURN SHEET

REQUESTED ACTION: RESUBMISSION

PROPERTY NAME: Victoria Grist Windmill

MULTIPLE
NAME:

STATE & COUNTY: TEXAS, Victoria

DATE RECEIVED: 5/06/11 DATE OF PENDING LIST:
DATE OF 16TH DAY: DATE OF 45TH DAY: 6/21/11
DATE OF WEEKLY LIST:

REFERENCE NUMBER: 76002079

NOMINATOR: STATE

DETAILED EVALUATION:

ACCEPT RETURN REJECT _____ DATE

ABSTRACT/SUMMARY COMMENTS:

*Additional documentation
rec'd + incorporated
Now approved*

RECOM./CRITERIA *Accept and approve*
REVIEWER *JM Clelland* DISCIPLINE _____
TELEPHONE _____ DATE *5/10/2011*

DOCUMENTATION see attached comments Y/N see attached SLR Y/N

TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION
real places telling real stories



TO: Linda McClelland
 National Register of Historic Places

FROM: Gregory W. Smith, National Register Coordinator
 Texas Historical Commission

RE: *Victoria Grist Windmill (proposal to move)*, Victoria County, Texas

DATE: April 27, 2011

- The following materials regarding *Victoria Grist Windmill* are submitted:

	Original National Register of Historic Places forms:
	_ Resubmitted nomination
	Multiple Property Documentation form
	_ Resubmitted form
	Photographs printed from digital files
	Gold CD with TIFF photograph files
	Photographs printed from negatives
	USGS map
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Correspondence
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other: Resubmitted proposal to move a listed property, revised per NPS comments

COMMENTS:

- ___ SHPO requests substantive review (cover letter from SHPO attached)
- ___ The enclosed owner objections (do___) (do not___) constitute a majority of property owners
- ___ Other:



TEXAS HISTORICAL COMMISSION

real places telling real stories

February 9, 2011

Ms. Carol Shull
Keeper, National Register of Historic Places
National Park Service
1201 Eye Street N.W. 8th Floor
Washington, DC 20005

RE: Victoria Grist Windmill (Proposal to Move), Victoria, Victoria County, Texas

Dear Ms. Shull:

Enclosed is documentation outlining a proposal to move a structure listed in the National Register of Historic Places (Victoria Grist Windmill, Victoria, Victoria County, Texas). This documentation was submitted by Joni Brown, for Michael Maraggia, owner of the listed structure (but not the parcel upon which it sits) to fulfill the requirements of the National Historic Preservation Act [36 CFR 60.14 (b)] regarding the relocation of properties listed in the National Register of Historic Places.

The Victoria Grist Windmill was individually listed in 1975. The structure was moved twice from its original (c.1870) site, and has been located at its present site since 1935. The National Register nomination focused on its significance as an engineering landmark. Because the structure is privately-owned, the City of Victoria has determined that it should be moved from the current site, which is a public park and cemetery, and the owner is willing to relocate it to an appropriate rural site east of Victoria. The scope of work includes the removal of the windmill only, and any ground-disturbing activity at the current windmill site would be subject to the Texas State Antiquities Code and require a permit from the Texas Historical Commission. The property owner and the city are committed to preserving the integrity of subsurface materials and will take steps to ensure that burials will not be disturbed in any way. Texas archeological stewards have confirmed that the placement of the windmill at the proposed location will have no effect on archeological sites.

The relocation site is open farmland owned by a descendant of the windmill's original builder. The State Board of Review approved the relocation of the structure at its meeting on January 15, 2011, and has determined that the structure should remain individually listed in the National Register if moved as proposed. All procedures outlined in 36 CFR 60 have been met.

In July 2010 the existing condition of the windmill on the Memorial Square site including the structure and mill's mechanical system was documented, and a condition assessment report and relocation plan were prepared. The mill will be dismantled, restored, and moved to a new location in three phases. In the first phase of the project, the mill will be dismantled and the various parts numbered and shipped to Lynchburg, Virginia, where, in the second stage, the various mechanical parts, including the gears, bearings, and windshaft, will be repaired and restored to an operable condition. In the final stage the mill will be shipped to the new location in Inez, reassembled on a prepared foundation, sheathed with original boards (although lined with Tyvek), equipped with the original Cullin Stones, and set into operation. New sails and stone furniture (casing, hopper, crane,



RICK PERRY, GOVERNOR • JON T. HANSEN, CHAIRMAN • MARK WOLFE, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.O. BOX 12276 • AUSTIN, TEXAS • 78711-2276 • P 512.463.6100 • F 512.475.4872 • TDD 1.800.735.2989 • www.thc.state.tx.us

etc.) appropriate to the period will be installed since these parts are no longer extant. The project will be carried out by a firm specializing in historic mill restoration.

We request your determination regarding whether or not the Victoria Grist Windmill could remain listed in the National Register in its new location. If approved, we will follow up with documentation of the windmill in its new location and will amend the nomination as necessary. If you have any questions or comments, please contact National Register Coordinator Gregory Smith at (512) 452-4433 or by email at gregs@thc.state.tx.us. Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mark Wolfe". The signature is written in a cursive style with a long, sweeping underline that extends to the right.

Mark Wolfe
State Historic Preservation Officer

Proposed Relocation
of the
Victoria Wind Gristmill
Victoria, Victoria County, Texas
to Inez, Victoria County, Texas

Prepared by:

Joni Brown, MAIS for
Michael Maraggia
PO Box 359
Inez, TX 77968
361.570.3867
michael@stxmilling.com

With assistance from:
Kim Barker, Project Reviewer, Division of Architecture
and
Gregory Smith, National Register Coordinator
Texas Historic Commission
PO Box 12276
Austin, TX 78711-2276

December 2010; Revised April 2011

Overview of the Project

The Victoria Grist Windmill was individually listed in 1975. The structure was originally built c.1870 in the Raisin community, approximately nine miles southwest of Victoria, and was moved to a farm a few miles north of Victoria near Spring Creek. In 1935, the windmill was donated to the Morning Study Club in Victoria and moved to its current site, Memorial Square, a cemetery and public park at 402 N. DeLeon near the heart of Victoria. The National Register nomination focused on its significance as an engineering landmark, and it retained enough integrity to be listed as such. Because the structure is privately-owned, the City of Victoria has determined that it should be moved from the current site and the owner is willing to relocate it to an appropriate rural site east of Victoria.

The scope of work includes the removal of the windmill only, and any ground-disturbing activity at the current windmill site would be subject to the Texas State Antiquities Code and require a permit. The property owner and the city are committed to preserving the integrity of subsurface materials and will take steps to ensure that burials will not be disturbed in any way. Texas archeological stewards have confirmed that the placement of the windmill at the proposed location will have no effect on archeological sites.

The relocation site is open farmland owned by a descendant of the windmill's original builder. The State Board of Review approved the relocation of the house at its meeting on January 15, 2011, and has determined that the structure should remain individually listed in the National Register if moved as proposed. All procedures outlined in 36 CFR 60 have been met.

Compliance with 36 CFR 60.14.b

In accordance with 36 CFR 60.14.b of the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended, the following information is included:

1. The reasons for the move
2. The effect on the property's historical integrity
3. The new setting and general environment of the proposed site, including evidence that the proposed site does not possess historical or archeological significance that would be adversely affected by the intrusion of the property
4. Photographs showing the proposed location.

1. The reasons for the move

The City of Victoria required the Morning Study Club, who was deeded the gristmill on May 25, 1935, to remove the gristmill from Memorial Square. The membership of the Club voted to give the mill to a Meiss family member (Michael Maraggia), who accepted the offer. The city is requiring the new owner to move the gristmill from its current location by August 31, 2011.

2. The effect on the property's historical integrity

The gristmill has retained its historic integrity since it was listed in 1975 in a location that was not associated with its historic use. The characteristics that made it significant as an example of engineering and agricultural technology are intact, and would remain so in a new location. The proposed location is more conducive to interpreting the property as an agricultural processing apparatus, since it will be located on farmland, and not a city park. If the structure not removed by August 31, the City of Victoria may condemn and demolish it.

In July 2010 the existing condition of the windmill on the Memorial Square site including the structure and mill's mechanical system was documented, and a condition assessment report and relocation plan were prepared. The mill will be dismantled, restored, and moved to a new location in three phases. In the first phase of the project, the mill will be dismantled and the various parts numbered and shipped to Lynchburg, Virginia, where, in the second stage, the various mechanical parts, including the gears, bearings, and windshaft, will be repaired and restored to an operable condition. In the final stage the mill will be shipped to the new location in Inez, reassembled on a prepared foundation, sheathed with original boards (although lined with Tyvek), equipped with the original Cullin Stones or "Dutch Blues," and set into operation. New sails and stone furniture (casing, hopper, crane, etc.) appropriate to the period will be installed since these parts are no longer extant. The project will be carried out by a firm specializing in historic mill restoration.

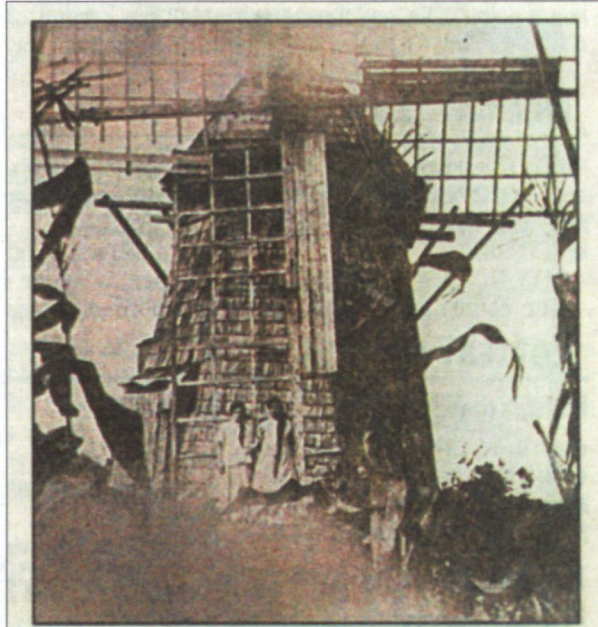
3. The new setting and general environment of the proposed site, including evidence that the proposed site does not possess historical or archeological significance that would be adversely affected by the intrusion of the property

The owner intends to feature the windmill as part of a heritage agriculture education center located at Maraggia Farm near Inez, in Victoria County. Although this project will be years in development, the windmill is the centerpoint of this endeavor. It is the owner's intent to restore the windmill to working order powered by wind, as it was originally designed. The owner has identified B. E. Hassett-Millwrights, Inc. as the likely contractor for the project.

An exact date of purchase of what is now known as Maraggia Farms is unknown due to a fire at a courthouse several decades ago. Henry Conrad Franz (the owner's great-great grandfather) owned 1800 acres in the Garcitas Precinct, as it was known at that time. According to family lore, the property was acquired somewhere between 1875 and 1900. This property has been under cultivation as a family farm for over one hundred years. The proposed location has no historic buildings in the vicinity, and based on an archeological survey by Texas Archeological Stewards Bill Birmingham and Ben McReynolds, the proposed location of the windmill is not likely to affect any archeological resources.

Figures 1 and 2

Photographs of the windmill in a previous location north of Victoria (no date; prior to 1935)



Contributed Photo

The old gristmill that sits in Victoria's Memorial Square near downtown belongs to the Morning Study Club. Club members recently found the deed to the mill, shown here when it was located in a cornfield.

Figure 3
Windmill in its current location
Camera Facing northeast



Figure 4
Windmill in its current location
Camera facing southwest



Figure 5
Windmill in its current location
Lower gears



Figure 6
Windmill in its current location
Upper gears



Figure 7
Windmill in its current location
Camera facing southeast



Figure 8
Windmill in its current location
Camera facing southwest



Figure 9

Aerial photograph of the windmill in its current location, indicated by arrow.



Figure 10
Windmill in its current location at Mark A; Proposed relocation at Mark B



Figure 11
Aerial photograph of proposed relocation site, indicated by letter "B"



Figure 12
Proposed relocation site (near the trees)



Figure 13

Proposed relocation site (between the trees; contemporary house in background)



B.E. HASSETT- MILLWRIGHTS, INC.
SUMMARY OF EXPERIENCE

- American Windpower Center (Lubbock, TX)-** **March 2010**
Documentation and dismantling of Post Windmill for reassembly
To operable condition.
Contact: Coy Harris, Executive Director (806)252-5205
- Stover-Myer Mill (Bucks Co., PA)-** **April 2010**
Documentation and dismantling of collapsed Hurst Frame, Flooring
And Gear train for future repairs.
Contact: Charlie Yeske, Bucks County Parks (267)337-0955
- Locke's Mill (Berryville, VA)-** **Current**
Design, Build and Install New Hurstframe, geartrain and Shafts for 2 sets of Millstones.
Contact: Jon & Carol Joyce, Owners (540)-535-8265
- La Rusticana D'Orsa (Los Gatos, CA)-** **2-09 to 3-09**
Design, build and install 15ft diam x 3ft wide White Oak waterwheel of Olive Oil Mill.
Contact: Frank Dorsa, Owner fmdorsa@pacbell.net, fm@dorsa.com
- Hollands Windmill (Milbank, SD)** **4-08 to 10-08**
Return 1882 English Smock Windmill to operable condition. Included completion
and installation of 25K lb windmill Cap, 60ft Patents sails, Fantail mechanism,
drivetrain and controls.
Contact: Jason Kettwig, City Manager, Milbank, SD (605) 432-9575
- Evans-Mumbower Mill (Ambler, PA)-** **4-07 to Present**
-Design, Build and install, accurate Mid-19th century Overshot waterwheel shaft,
and gear train. Conserve & refurbish existing machinery to operable condition.
Design, Build and install Flume, Support Frame and gate Control mechanism.
Dress & Install 4ft set of French Buhrs. Provide calculations for water system
for powering the Mill from Wissahickon Creek. Produce operations
& maintenance manual to run the Mill.

Contact: Nancy Venner, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association (215) 646-8866
- Bale Grist Mill (Calistoga, CA)-** **11-05 to present**
-Survey and inventory of Mill and components. Current project to complete
MillingMachinery including, rolling screen, bolter, elevators and associated
drives. Multiple phase project.
Contact: Ranger Sandy Jones, Napa-Bothe State Historic Park (707) 942-4575
- Graves Mill (Madison Co. VA)-** **10-05 to present**
-Structural stabilization for future repairs. Temporary roof and shoring of structure.
Contact: Dreama Travis (Owner)- MillLady@aol.com
- Harden Foundation (Salinas, CA)-** **08-05 to 11-06**
-Restoration of Milling machinery and Woodworking shop. Repair or restore
machinery and drives in both Mill building and woodworking shop to operable
condition. Mill last operated in 1917. Produce operations and maintenance manual.
Contact: Joe Grainger, Executive Director (831) 442-3005 joe@hardenfoundation.org

Flowerdew Hundred Post Windmill (Prince George Co.)-

10-03 to 08-05

-Structural Rebuild. Replace ladder, fantail, carriage. Replace main post, quarterbars, crosstrees. Repair top rails, replace weatherbeam, sidegirts and crowntree. Replace siding.
Replace sails. Annual maintenance.

Contact: Karen Shriver, Curator ks2kc@eservices.virginia.edu

Stratford Hall Plantation (Westmoreland Co. VA)-

06-01 to 10-03

-Restoration of Watermill machinery. Build new 17' white oak waterwheel and shaft. Build new 13'9" Pitwheel w/ 122cogs. New "Ellicott" type gear train consisting of two 7' cogwheels, two wallowers, build new cornstone stonnut. Replace countershaft. Fitting and adjustment of operating controls.
Repairs to Hurst frame including replacement of cills and repairs to all posts.

Contact: Ken McFarland, Director of Education & Preservation (804) 493-9162, kmcfarland@stratfordhall.org

Aldie Mill (Loudon Co. VA)-

11-01 to 05-02

-Complete Restoration begun in mid-1980's. Repairs to Head gate, build new Control gate. Set up and adjustment of gearing, operating controls and millstones.
Test runs. Bracing of Hurst Frame. Repairs to millstone furniture.
Balancing of millstones.

Contact: Brenda Branscomb, Director (703) 327-9777

Bowmansville Mill (Lancaster Co. PA)-

05-02 to 06-02

-Build new stone crane; re-cog auxiliary drive throughout mill. Build two new crown gears for auxiliary drive. Build 9'2" diameter white oak spur gear (clasp arm) for sawmill. (Spur gear was built in 1998 during my apprenticeship.)

Burwell-Morgan Mill (Clarke Co. VA)-

07-97 to 05-01

-(During apprenticeship) Build new 20' dia. White oak waterwheel and shaft. Build new Pitwheel, little cogwheels, wallowers, stonnuts, countershafts. Work was carried out under the direction of Derek Ogden.

Contact: Ed Keenan, Miller- ed.keenan@associates.dhs.gov

Additional Work Experience-

Waterford Mill (Loudon Co. VA)-

Clean and repair roller mill equipment.

Contact: Bernard A. O'Dell, Properties Committee (540) 882-3081

Colvin Run Mill (Fairfax Co. VA)-

Dress millstones

Contact: Mason Maddox, Miller (703) 759-2771

Yates Mill (Wake Co. NC)-

Make new wooden cogs for cast iron bevel gears. Dress Millstones. Final set up & adjustments prior to test grinding. Test grinds.

Contact: William Robins, Miller (919) 834-9597

Additional References-

Col. H.M. ("H") Baker, Oatlands Plantation- (540) 955-5500

Lisa Riggs, Danish Windmill Corporation- (712) 764-7472, lisa@danishwindmill.com

Dr. Len Winter, Staff Archaeologist, Dept. of NAVY- (843) 820-5873, len.winter@navy.mil



Spur Gear- 9ft. 2in. Diameter, 122 cogs- White Oak, Rock Maple
Bowmansville Mill- Lancaster Co., PA

Ben Hassett
B.E. Hassett- Millwrights, Inc.
P.O. Box 623
Lynchburg, VA 24505
804-363-1606
hassettbe@verizon.net

**Meiss Windmill
Victoria, Texas-**

**Report on Structure-
Recommendations & Costs for Repair and Relocation to Inez, TX.**

Prepared by: Ben Hassett
B.E. Hassett- Millwrights, Inc.
P.O. Box 623
Lynchburg, VA 24505

Prepared for: Michael Maraggia
South Texas Milling, Inc
2792 Ragsdale Rd
Inez, TX 77968

Date: July 22, 2010

References-

1. Site Inspection by Millwright on July 16, 2010.
2. Undated early photographs of Mill prior to move
In the 1930's.

Time Line-

Pre 1860- Millstones imported from Germany, through port of Indianola.
Stones measure approx 42in outside the bands.

18xx- Stone first used in a Mill near Goliad by F.G. Witte

18xx- Louis Albrecht purchase Mill and relocates Mill to Raisin
Community on Coletto Creek.

1870- Mill purchased by Fred Meiss and rebuilt and erected near Spring
Creek.

1935- Mill donated to the Morning Study Club and relocated to Memorial
Square in Victoria.

1976- April 30th, National Register of Historic Places Listing
(#76002079)

1991- May, American Society of Mechanical Engineers Landmark.

General Description of Structure and Machinery in Mill-

Location- Memorial Square in Victoria, TX.

**Structure &
Operation-** Octagonal Smock Mill, Framed in Oak, SYP 1x10 sheathing, Cypress

Shingles. Most Oak framing appears to be Original to the structure. Tower currently rests on concrete perimeter foundation, with cant posts secured with straps. Foot print of the Mill is approx 16ft across the base. Height of the tower to the top of the wall plate is approx 16ft. Walls have approx 4ft batter.

Mill powered 1 set of 42in under-driven Millstones for the grinding of grain. The Mill likely powered meal sifting or grain cleaning machinery, however there are no remains of auxiliary machinery in the Mill, only evidence of drives and photos of exhaust duct on exterior of Mill in early photo. Millstone Furniture is missing and would need to be reconstructed.

During the move in the 1930's it appears that the overall height of the Tower has been shortened a bit, and the cill plates of the structure have been removed, probably due to rot in the originals. Additionally all 8 cant posts have been cut above the 1st floor level and poorly sistered with 2x mending plates.

Cap- Cap structure dates from the 1930's. Early photographs show the a more traditional looking cap with clipped gable and a batter fore to aft of the brakewheel centerline. From a photograph of the Mill prior to the move to Memorial Square, the roof framing is exposed. The original framing appears to be of a heavier material approx 4in x 5in in section. This material is of similar dimension to the bracing members of the tower.

Curb- As typical with a Smock Mill, the Mill has a stationary tower and machinery with a rotating cap to keep the Mill facing into the wind. The Mill rotated on what is known as a "curb". Curb design and configuration vary greatly from Mill to Mill. At the Meiss Windmill, the cap rotates on what is known as a "dead curb". The cap rests on a series of 2in x 5in wooden blocks (approx. 2ft 9in O.C.) which support the weight of the cap and machinery, but diminish the contact surface area, the idea being to reduce friction, to allow the cap to turn easier.

Sails- Current sails are decorative and could never function. Early photographs show the sails rotating counterclockwise direction (when viewed from front). Current decorative sails are for clockwise rotation.

Sails- The Mill originally had 35ft to 36ft common sails. Each sail had a stock that passed through the wooden pollend (hub) of the windshaft. Attached to each stock were "whips" or "sweeps" which were attached using a combination of forged bolts and cramps. This gave the sail its overall length of 36ft. Scaling from photographs the overall width of the sweep appears to be between 5ft to 6ft. The sails are built in a traditional manner with alternating sail bars through morticed.

Windshaft- Current windshaft appears to original. It is a wooden windshaft with Integral wooden pollend. Windshaft is constructed from 4 cants. Inlayed neck bearing. Forged thrust bearing. Wind shaft has mending plates forward of the brakewheel and behind poll-end. This section of the

shaft appears heavily decayed and is badly in need of repair. Repairs can be made to the shaft while preserving much of the original shaft, with careful conservation and repair methods.

**Brakewheel
And
Brakeband-**

Wooden clasp arm brake wheel, 66T @ 4in pitch, approx 7ft6in O.D. Existing cogs are not original to gear. Gear appears to be in good condition and originally built by a Millwright experienced in making gears. Brake band is an iron band actuated by a lever. Lower section of the band is missing and existing brake lever is not original or functional.

Wallower- Wooden, 23 staves @ 4in pitch approx 29.25in Diameter. Original.

Verical Shaft- Single length vertical shaft running from ground floor to sprattle beam. 10in x 10in Oak, forged gudgeons and bands. Appox. 15ft L.O.A.

Great Spur

Wheel- Clasp Arm, 72T- Approximately 6ft6in, 3.5in pitch at PCD.

Stonenut- Stave type, 19rds at 3.5in pitch. Approx 20.5in diam.

**Millstone &
Furniture-**

1 set of 42in diameter Millstones. Stones are Cullin Stones also known as "Dutch Blues" given their coloration. Stones exported from Cologne, Germany. Very nice & rare example of this type of stones in US.

Stone furniture including: casing, hopper, shoe, horse frame & crane, Would need to be recreated in the appropriate style.

Tentering- Tentering was achieved in a primitive manner by adjusting the height of The bridgetee with wedges and mallet.

Meiss Windmill- Victoria, Texas

July 2010-

Cost Estimate for Repair and Relocation of Windmill.

Notes:

Phase I. Work Includes: Documentation of Mill at its existing site in Memorial Square, Numbering Dismantling and Shipping Mill to Lynchburg, VA for Repair.

Phase II. Work Includes: Repair of structure, Rebuild cap frame and cap. Build new tailpole. Repairs all shafts and gearing. Repair brake band and lever to usable condition. Conservation and repair of all mechanics of Mill including all shafts and gearing. Design and build new traditional sails for Mill and supply sail cloths. Design and build new stone furniture for Mill. Repairs to windshaft and bearings throughout Mill.

Phase III. Work Includes: Shipping of Mill to Inez for reassembly. Erecting tower on prepared foundations, sheathing tower with original sheathing boards, sheering with plywood, wrapping structure

with Tyvek or similar, flashing and new cypress shingle to exterior of Mill. Set up of all mechanics to working condition. Test grinds, training on maintenance and care of Mill.

--The below costs include, labor, materials, housing, travel and rental expenses in Victoria, Lynchburg and Inez. Cost does include use of guest house at Maraggia Farms.

Phase I. Documentation and disassembly in Victoria and shipping to Lynchburg, VA for repairs. (Time of Performance: 4 weeks)..... \$55,000.00

Phase II. Repair the Mill in Virginia. (Time of Performance: 12 weeks)... \$97,500.00

Phase III. Return Mill to Inez, TX and erect on prepared foundations. Set up of all mechanics and training on the operation and maintenance of the Mill. (Time of Performance: 6weeks)..... \$65,500.00

Total..... \$218,000.00

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICENATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED NOV 11 1975

DATE ENTERED

APR 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS**1 NAME**

HISTORIC

* * Victoria Grist Windmill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Memorial Park in Victoria

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Victoria

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

14

STATE

Texas

VICINITY OF

CODE
48

COUNTY

Victoria

CODE

469

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

 DISTRICT
 BUILDING(S)
 STRUCTURE
 SITE
 OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

 PUBLIC
 PRIVATE
 BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

 IN PROCESS
 BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

 OCCUPIED
 UNOCCUPIED
 WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

 YES: RESTRICTED
 YES: UNRESTRICTED
 NO

PRESENT USE

 AGRICULTURE
 COMMERCIAL
 EDUCATIONAL
 ENTERTAINMENT
 GOVERNMENT
 INDUSTRIAL
 MILITARY
 MUSEUM
 PARK
 PRIVATE RESIDENCE
 RELIGIOUS
 SCIENTIFIC
 TRANSPORTATION
 OTHER:**4 OWNER OF PROPERTY**

NAME

Victoria Morning Study Club

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Victoria

VICINITY OF

STATE

Texas

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Victoria County Courthouse, Victoria, Texas

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Victoria

STATE

Texas

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Texas Historic Engineering Site Inventory

DATE

Fall, 1974

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCALDEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

Texas Tech University

CITY, TOWN

Lubbock

STATE

Texas

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE <u>1935</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Victoria Grist Windmill is a well-preserved example of a nineteenth-century European tower-type windmill. The structure is approximately 35 feet high, supports four blades approximately 15 feet long, and contains equipment and machinery necessary for grinding meal from corn. Fred Meiss Sr., with the assistance of Otto Fiek, built the mill in 1870.

The mill was originally so designed that the cap could be turned into prevailing winds while the base remained stationary. Although a wooden pole at the rear site of the cap was used for turning, it proved to be an arduous task. Storms proved a hazard and on several occasions high winds threatened to ruin the solidly built structure.

The main shaft of the mill was fashioned from a 20-ft log with a diameter of 15 inches. The walls were constructed of hewn logs joined with wooden pegs. Green boards twelve inches thick were carefully selected, then bent and fastened to form the huge wheels. Measuring 65 feet in circumference, these wheels drive gears attached to a wooden shaft which in turn, moves the grinding stone. The stones, nine inches thick and four feet in diameter were capable of grinding 500 pounds of meal per week.

When the windmill was moved to its present site in 1935, portions of it were reconstructed using more modern materials. Part of the structure includes steel nails, machine cut lumber, and shingles not used in original construction. The principal structural elements of the mill (superstructure, shafts, and log wheels) appear to be original and have been altered only through periodic maintenance.

The windmill has been moved several times. Fred Meiss constructed the mill in the Rasin Community, west of Victoria, Texas, near Coletto Creek, but it was later moved to his farm near Spring Creek north of the town of Victoria. After representatives of the Ford Museum unsuccessfully attempted to purchase the Victoria Grist Windmill in the early 1930's, Fred Meiss's heirs gave the mill to the citizens of Victoria.

Country House in Victoria, Texas

Discover More about the History of Victoria

Victoria, Texas

1870

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

1870

BUILDER/ARCHITECT Fred Meiss and Otto Fiek

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Victoria Grist Windmill, built in 1870, is probably the last remaining example of European tower-type windmill in the American Southwest, although such mills were not unusual in European communities in the region in the nineteenth century.

Fred Meiss built the mill in ¹⁸⁷⁰~~1870~~ with the assistance of Otto Fiek. The Dutch windmill was patterned after a previous mill built by F. G. Witte. Witte had his grinding stones made in Norway and shipped through the port of Indianola (Texas coastal city destroyed by a hurricane on Aug. 19-21, 1886) and carried inland by ox cart. Witte sold them to Louis Albrecht, who later sold them to Meiss for his construction of the present Victoria Windmill.

The windmill first stood west of Victoria and then was moved near Spring Creek, north of Victoria. After representatives of the Ford Museum tried to buy the mill in the early 1930's, Mrs. Ethel Blakemore, resident of Victoria and great-granddaughter of the original owners deeded the mill to Victoria Morning Study Club in 1935. At that time the mill was moved to the Memorial Park in Victoria, Texas.

During the reconstruction of the mill in the Victoria Memorial Park, some more modern materials were used. Steel nails, machine cut lumber, and shingles which were not in the original mill were used. However, the basic structural elements of the mill were preserved. Superstructure, shafts, and log wheels appear to be original and have been altered only through maintenance during the mill's years of existence. The Victoria Parks and Recreation Department maintains the mill carefully, although none of its employees are knowledgeable about nineteenth century windmills. It is protected from vandalism by locks on the doors and on the gate of a chain link fence around it.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Morris, Leopold. Pictorial History of Victoria County. San Antonio: privately printed, 1953.
Victoria Daily Advocate (Victoria, Tex.), September 28, 1934, Sec. 1, p. 12; March 31, 1935, p. 2.
 Wilson, J. M., Mrs. "The Old Wind Grist Mill Memorial Square Victoria, Texas." n. p.: n. d. 1 lv. Mimeographed. (Available at Victoria Dutch Windmill, Memorial Park, Victoria, Texas)

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .1 acre.

UTM REFERENCES

A | 14 | 6915200 | 3187340 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | |

B | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | |

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

John E. Moore, Research Assistant

ORGANIZATION

History of Engineering

STREET & NUMBER

Civil Engineering Dept., Texas Tech Univ.

CITY OR TOWN

Lubbock

DATE

5-21-75

TELEPHONE

742-1231

STATE

Texas

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.

SIGNATURE

John E. Moore

TITLE Texas State Historic Preservation Officer

DATE June 4, 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

Active

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 4/30/76

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 4-29-76

Charles Adeney

Property

Victoria Crest Windmill

76 002079

State

Tx

Working Number

11.11.75 2031

Victoria

TECHNICAL

Photos 3

Maps 1

CONTROL

OK ^{pl} 11.12.75

HISTORIAN

Accept
E. Smith
12-15-75

Moved several times but acceptable as
"Probably the last remaining example of
European tower-type windmill in the
American Southwest." TO HAER. Probably
not of National Significance.

ARCHITECTURAL HISTORIAN

Does not maintain integrity of location,
but it is definitely an unusual structure for this (or any other) part of
the country.

ACCEPT ^{pl} 12/19/75

ARCHEOLOGIST

OTHER

HAER

Inventory BWB 7/12

✓ Review Accept Eudy
3/21/76

REVIEW UNIT CHIEF

Accept
Colz
1/29/76

BRANCH CHIEF

Accept
Hunzo
3-4-76

KEEPER

Accept
Hunzo
4-29-76

National Register Write-up _____

Send-back _____

Entered APR 30 1976

Federal Register Entry 6-1-76

Re-submit _____

INT:2106-74



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 5.4.30

Title: Victoria Grist Windmill
Victoria Cty., Texas

Loc. Detail of driving gear
and crown wheel inside
cap of the VG Windmill

8



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4.30.76

Title: Victoria Grist Windmill
Victoria Cty., Texas

Loc. Detail of imported Norway
granite grinding stones
inside the upper level of
m.u.

248



PROPERTY OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

NPS Number 4.30.76

Title: Victoria Grist Windmill
Victoria Cty., Texas

Loc. West to full view of
windmill showing side
view of blades.

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY MAP FORM**

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

NOV 11 1975

APR 30 1976

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN *HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS*
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- ENCLOSE WITH MAP

1 NAME

HISTORIC Victoria Grist Windmill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

CITY, TOWN

Victoria

___ VICINITY OF

COUNTY

Victoria

STATE

Texas

3 MAP REFERENCE

SOURCE

USGS

SCALE

1:24000

DATE

1964

4 REQUIREMENTS

TO BE INCLUDED ON ALL MAPS

1. PROPERTY BOUNDARIES
2. NORTH ARROW
3. UTM REFERENCES

ENTRIES IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

STATE TEXAS

Date Entered APR 29 1978

<u>Name</u>	<u>Location</u>
Hot Well Archeological Site	El Paso Vicinity El Paso County
Point Isabel Lighthouse	Fort Isabel Cameron County
Victoria Grist Windmill	Victoria Victoria County

Also Notified

Hon. John G. Tower
Hon. Lloyd M. Bentsen
Hon. Richard C. White
Hon. E. (Kika) de la Garza
Hon. John Young

State Historic Preservation Officer
Mr. Truett Latimer
Executive Director
Texas Historical Commission
P.O. Box 12276, Capitol Station
Austin, Texas 78711

cc: Regional Director, Southwest Region

/PR:MMott:cam:5/4/76

NATIONAL REGISTER DATA SHEET

1 NAME as it appears on federal register: Victoria Grist Windmill ①
 2 OTHER NAMES: —
 3 date of entry: 4-30-76 4 county code: 469

5 LOCATION street & number: Memorial Park in Victoria city / town: Victoria vicinity of: — state: TX county: Victoria 6 NPS REGION: 3W

7 OWNER PRIVATE STATE MUNICIPAL COUNTY MULTIPLE FEDERAL (agency name): Public/private 8 ADMINISTRATOR: —

9 EXISTING SURVEYS HABS HAER NHL 10 FUNDED? YES NO 11 CONGRESS. DISTRICT: 14 12 SOURCE OF NOMINATION STATE FEDERAL

13 WITHIN NATIONAL REGISTER HISTORIC DISTRICT? YES, NAME: — 14 WITHIN NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK? YES, NAME: — 15 ACREAGE: .1 if state who prepared form? John Moore
 LOCAL PRIVATE ORGANIZATION

16 CONDITION deteriorated altered original site excellent ruins unaltered moved good unexposed reconstructed unknown fair unexcavated excavated
 17 features: SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-1 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-2 SUBSTANTIALLY INTACT-3
 NOT INTACT-0 NOT INTACT-0
 UNKNOWN-4 UNKNOWN-5
 NOT APPLICABLE-7 NOT APPLICABLE-8 NOT APPLICABLE-9

18 ACCESS YES-Restricted YES-Unrestricted No Access Unknown 19 ADAPTIVE USE YES NO 20 SAVED? YES NO IS PROPERTY A HISTORIC DISTRICT? yes no

21 AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE: ENGINEERING-11 LANDSCAPE ARCH.-15 POLITICS / GOVT.-21 RECREATION-28
 ARCHEOLOGY-prehistoric-2 COMMERCE-6 ENTERTAINMENT-26 LAW-16 RELIGION-22 SETTLEMENT-29
 ARCHEOLOGY-historic-1 COMMUNICATIONS-7 EXPLORATION-12 LITERATURE-17 SCIENCE-23 URBAN PLANNING-31
 AGRICULTURE-3 CONSERVATION-8 HEALTH-27 MILITARY-18 SOCIAL / HUMANITARIAN-24 OTHER (SPECIFY) _____
 ARCHITECTURE-4 ECONOMICS-9 INDUSTRY-13 MUSIC-19 SOCIAL / CULTURAL-30
 ART-5 EDUCATION-10 INVENTION-14 PHILOSOPHY-20 TRANSPORTATION-25

22 CLAIMS: explain
 'first'
 'oldest'
 'only' remaining European tower type windmill in Amer SW

23 functions WHEN HISTORICALLY SIGNIFICANT: mill use gristmill 24 dates of initial construction: 1870 25 ETHNIC GROUP ASSOCIATION: Dutch
 CURRENTLY: not in use major alterations: — historic events: —

26 architectural style(s): — 27 architect: — 28 master builder: — 29 engineer: —

30 landscape architect / garden designer: — 31 interior decorator: — 32 artist: — 33 artisan: — 34 builder/contractor: Fred Meiss, Otto Fiek ③

35 NAMES give role & date
 PERSONAL: F. G. Witke - mill patterned after his mill.
 EVENTS: —
 INSTITUTIONAL: Ford Museum - tried to buy the mill in the 1930s.

36 NATIONAL REGISTER WRITE-UP
Tower windmill, log construction, shingled exterior, 35' high, hexagonal, rotating roof cap, 4 blades each 15' long, original machinery intact including Norwegian grinding stones. One of very few European tower-type windmills remaining in the American Southwest.

Meiss, Fred:
 Fiek, Otto: index