

**United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service**

For NPS use only

**National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form**

received **OCT 22 1987**

date entered **NOV 0 1987**

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

**1. Name**

historic Sheriff Place

and/or common Sheriff Mill Complex (Preferred)

**2. Location**

street & number Secondary Road 40, NNE of S.C. Highway 8 N/A not for publication

city, town Easley  vicinity of

state South Carolina code 045 county Pickens code 077

**3. Classification**

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
	<u>N/A</u>	<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> other: vacant

**4. Owner of Property**

name Bruce Sheriff

street & number Rt. 1, Box 480, Sheriff's Mill Road

city, town Easley  vicinity of state South Carolina 29640

**5. Location of Legal Description**

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Pickens County Courthouse

street & number Main and Court Streets

city, town Pickens state South Carolina 29671

**6. Representation in Existing Surveys**

Inventory of Historic Places  
title in South Carolina has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1986  federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records South Carolina Department of Archives and History

city, town Columbia state South Carolina 29211

# 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>
<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved    date .....
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

## Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The Sheriff Mill Complex includes a main house, gristmill, miller's house, millpond, and dam. It is located on Brushy Creek in the Zion community of Pickens County, southeast of Easley. The complex was developed by the Sheriff family in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. The property today remains primarily rural, and the lack of modernization has generally helped to maintain the historical integrity of the complex.

### ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Resources that contribute to the historic character of the Sheriff Mill Complex include:

1. The 1881 gristmill is located on the west bank of Brushy Creek. It is one and one-half stories, rectangular in plan, with a gable roof covered with metal. The mill, which sits on stone piers, is frame with unpainted pine weatherboard siding. Most of the panes in the windows are missing. The main entrance door is located on the first story of the north elevation; a second service door is on the second story of the west elevation. The interior is open; the date "1881" has been inscribed on an interior wall. The corn and wheat milling machinery is intact. The wheat machinery dates from 1881; the corn machinery, which pre-dates that, was used in an earlier mill on the site. The diversion of the road run-off has caused severe erosion to the support of the mill. This is causing the underpinnings to collapse, making the mill unsafe for entry. The waterwheel has collapsed.

2. The main house, according to family tradition, was built ca. 1898-99 for the family of Exodus Sheriff by Sheriff, Bill Smith, and Jim Kilby of lumber grown and sawn on the property. The house is located on a slight knoll in a fairly open area overlooking the mill, pond, and creek. The L-shaped building is two stories with an attic. A one-story, L-shaped porch on the rear has been partially enclosed. The house is wood frame with pine weatherboard siding. The gable roof has a gablet featuring wood shingles in a hexagonal decorative pattern on the front (east) elevation. Sills are white oak. The house has brick chimneys with stepped foundations and corbelled caps on the exterior gable-end walls and in the interior of the rear ell. The original wood shingle roof was replaced with a metal roof, then with asphalt shingles. A solar heating unit has been added to the south slope of the roof. Windows have six-over-six, double-hung sash. The brick pier foundation has been filled in with brick. Steps are molded concrete. A one-story, hip-roofed front porch features turned posts, pierced brackets, and a sawn balustrade. The main entrance door is glass-paneled and has a transom and sidelights.

# 8. Significance

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

**Specific dates** ca. 1850, 1881, **Builder/Architect** Builders of Main House: Exodus Sheriff, Bill Smith, Jim Kilby  
 ca. 1898-99, ca. 1900

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

The Sheriff Mill Complex is located on Brushy Creek in the rural Zion community in Pickens County. The complex includes a main house, gristmill, millers's house, millpond, and dam constructed in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. Owned and operated by the Sheriff family, the complex is representative of a late nineteenth and early twentieth century milling operation. In addition, the main house, constructed ca. 1898-99, is a significant example of a late nineteenth century adaptation of an I-House, a house type common in the Piedmont.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

Exodus Sheriff (1845-1921) shared ownership of the gristmill property with his brothers Samuel and Alfred Sheriff. In 1881 they constructed the present mill on the site of an earlier corn mill. (According to family tradition, the earliest gristmill on the site was built around 1775.) Operated by Exodus Sheriff, the 1881 mill contained machinery that ground both wheat and corn for Sheriff as well as other farmers of the area.(1)

Exodus Sheriff had a large family, and after his death in 1921, his descendants continued to operate the gristmill until about 1955. The present owner, Bruce Sheriff, is a grandson of Exodus Sheriff.(2)

Industry: The Sheriff Mill Complex is associated with the important role of the gristmill in the economy of South Carolina in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries. For example, in 1880 flour and grist milling was the leading industry in the state.(3) Although grist milling was surpassed by other industries in the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries, it continued to be an important component of the economy. Most of the more than 500 gristmills in the state recorded by the the federal census of 1900 are no longer standing.(4) The Sheriff Mill Complex is one of the most intact grist mill complexes that has been identified in the state.

Architecture: The main house is an excellent example of a late nineteenth century adaptation and expansion of a vernacular form, the I-House, that has a long history of use in the Piedmont area. The basic elements of this traditional form are present (sidefacing gable roof, central hallway, two stories in height, two rooms wide), but it has been expanded to accomodate a large family. In addition,

# 9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

# 10. Geographical Data

Acreage of nominated property 19

Quadrangle name Easley, S.C.

Quadrangle scale 1:24,000

### UTM References

A	<u>1</u> <u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>16</u> <u>5</u> <u>16</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u> <u>6</u> <u>2</u> <u>10</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

B	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>16</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing

C	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>16</u> <u>3</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u> <u>3</u> <u>2</u> <u>10</u>
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D	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>16</u> <u>2</u> <u>8</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u> <u>5</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>
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E	<u>1</u> <u>7</u>	<u>3</u> <u>5</u> <u>16</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u> <u>0</u>	<u>3</u> <u>8</u> <u>5</u> <u>10</u> <u>6</u> <u>4</u> <u>0</u>
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F			
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G			
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H			
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### Verbal boundary description and justification

The boundary for the Sheriff Mill Complex is shown as the heavy black line on the attached map entitled, "Sheriff Mill Complex," which is drawn at a scale of 400' to the inch. The nominated property includes all extant resources associated with the Sheriff Mill.

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

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

# 11. Form Prepared By

name/title Hurley E. Badders, Executive Director S.C. Department of Archives and History  
Pendleton District Historical and

Revisions and Additions by Mary Edmonds

organization Recreational Commission

date June-July 1987

street & number 125 Queen Street

telephone (803) 646-3782

city or town Pendleton

state South Carolina 29670

# 12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

    national   X   state     local

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

State Historic Preservation Officer signature Christie Z. Jan, DSI

George L. Vogt  
title State Historic Preservation Officer

date 10/16/87

### For NPS use only

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

[Signature]  
Keeper of the National Register

date 11-20-87

Attest:

date

Chief of Registration

United States Department of the Interior  
National Park Service

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The main (front) core of the house has a central hall flanked by two rooms on both the first and second floors. A stairway with turned balusters and newel posts with a bull's eye motif is located in the central hall. The rear ell contains two rooms on the first floor and two rooms on the second. The house also includes two small rooms that were formed by enclosing the end sections of the L-shaped rear porch. A bathroom and a closet have been added behind the east room on the first floor. This area was originally a breezeway. Interior walls and ceilings are tongue and groove with a beaded finish. All of the main rooms have original wood mantels.

3. According to family tradition, the millers' house, located on the east side of Brushy Creek to the northeast of the main house and gristmill, was built around the mid-nineteenth century and has served as the home of millers associated with both the gristmill and sawmill operations on the property. It is a one and one-half story, rectangular building with a saltbox, or cat-slide, type roof of raised seam metal. The house is frame with pine weatherboard siding; the foundation is of fieldstone piers. A one-story, shed-roofed porch with square wood posts is attached to the front (southwest) elevation. The porch shelters a central door; windows have six-over-six, double-hung sash. A stuccoed brick and cinder block chimney is attached to the southeast elevation. An incompatible one-room addition was constructed on the northwest elevation in 1987, but it does not obscure the original house.

4. According to family tradition, there has been a millpond on the site (northeast of the main house) since around 1775. The present concrete dam was built around 1900 to replace an earlier log dam. The top three feet of the dam were added around 1935. The pond served as a reservoir to power the waterwheel that served the gristmill. The reservoir also provided power for a sawmill that was located near the gristmill. The sawmill is no longer standing.

Noncontributing resources include:

5. A bungalow constructed between 1942 and 1947 is located on the north side of Sheriff Mill Road to the southwest of the mill. This building was constructed after the period of significance for the nomination.

6. A store of unknown age is located on the north side of Sheriff Mill Road southeast of the bungalow. The building no longer retains integrity due to its advanced state of deterioration.

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decorative elements typical of the later nineteenth century have been incorporated (central gablet with decorative shingles, turned porch posts, sawn porch balustrade). The result is a larger and more sophisticated version of this traditional vernacular form.

NOTES

(1) Interview with Bruce Sheriff (grandson of Exodus Sheriff), Easley, S.C., 11 February 1987 and 28 July 1987; Apt. 225, File 15, Pickens County Wills, Pickens County Courthouse, Pickens, S.C.; Population Schedules of the Twelfth Census of the United States, 1880, Pickens County, enumeration district 113; Manufacturing Schedules, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880, Pickens County, South Carolina Department of Archives and History, Columbia, S.C.;

(2) Ibid.; Apt. 362, File 48 and Apt. 296, File 26, Pickens County Wills, Pickens County Courthouse, Pickens, S.C.

(3) U.S. Department of Interior. Census Office. Compendium of the Twelfth Census of the United States, 1900: Manufactures, vol. 8, p. 830.

(4) Ibid., p. 832.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

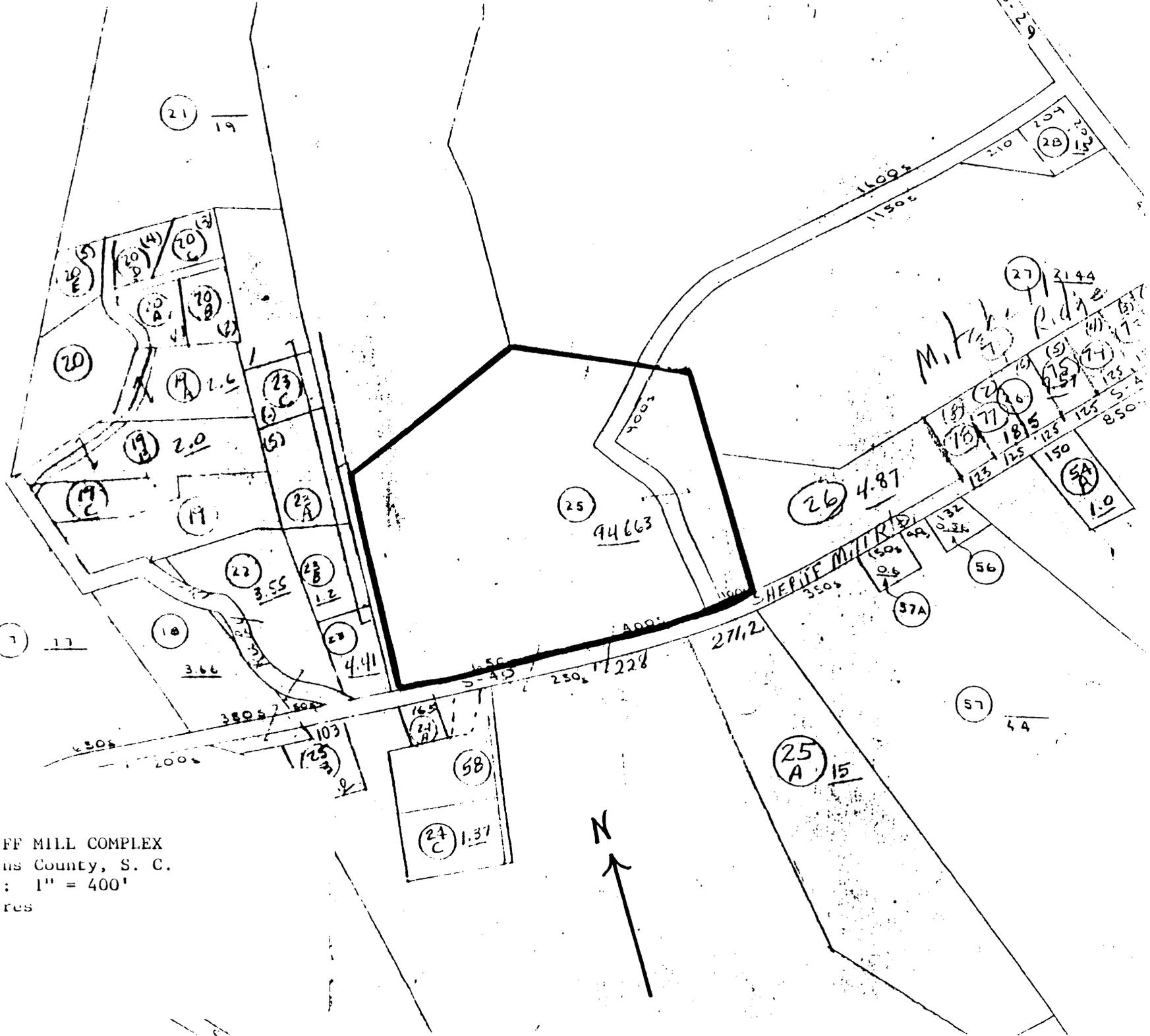
Columbia, S.C. South Carolina Department of Archives and History.  
Manufacturing Schedules, Tenth Census of the United States, 1880.

Pickens, S.C. Pickens County Courthouse. Pickens County Wills.

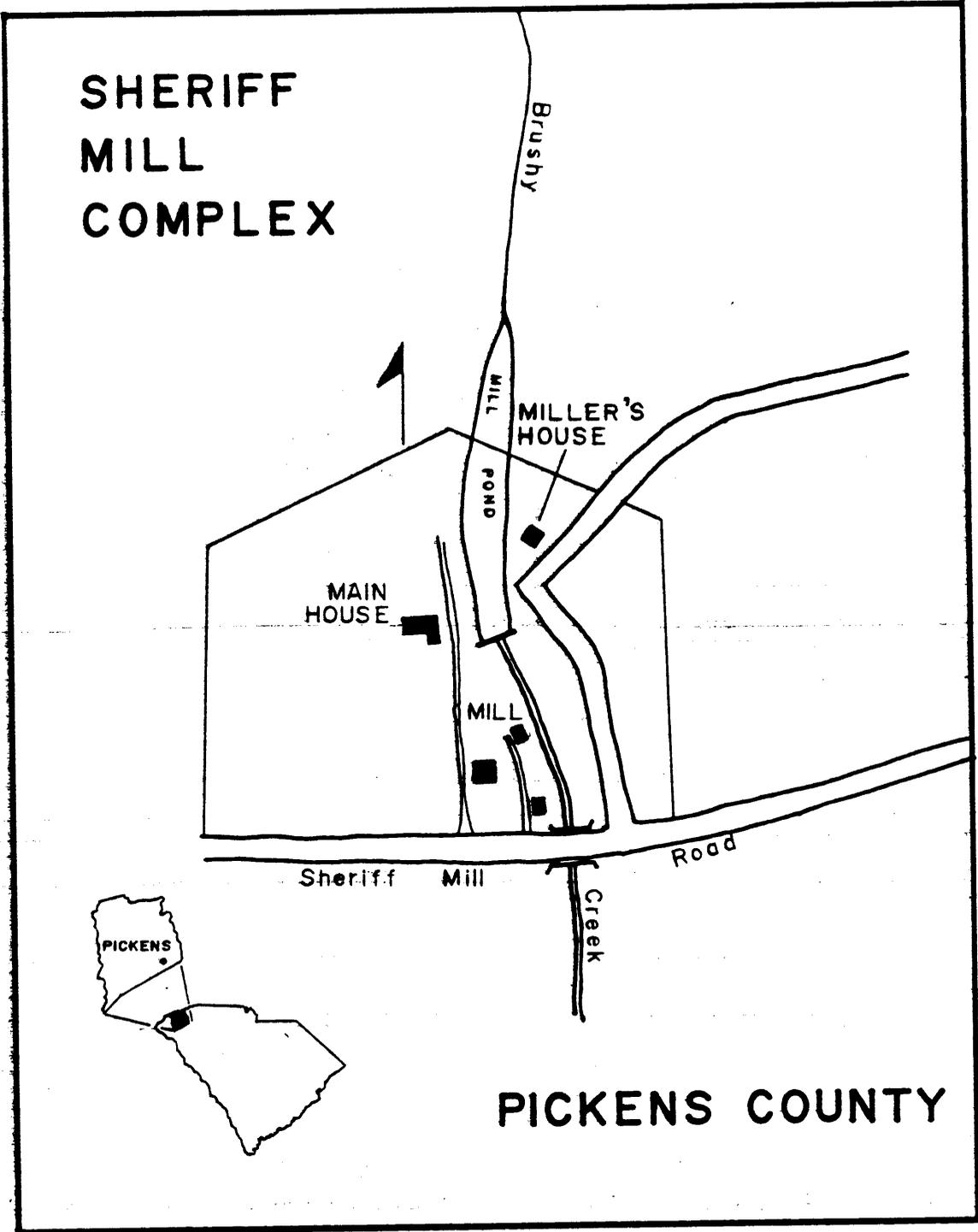
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Sheriff, Bruce. Easley, S.C. Interviews, 11 February 1987 and 28  
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SHERIFF MILL COMPLEX  
 Pickens County, S. C.  
 Scale: 1" = 400'  
 19 acres



SKETCH MAP - NOT TO SCALE