NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM
FOR FEDERAL PROPERTIES

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

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Wall Street Mill
AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER
Not applicable Twenty-nine Palms, CA
CITY, TOWN
Joshua Tree National Monument
STATE
California
CODE
06
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Forty-third
COUNTY CODE
San Bernadino 071

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
• PARK
• EDUCATIONAL
• ENTERTAINMENT
• RELIGIOUS
• GOVERNMENT
• INDUSTRIAL
• TRANSPORTATION
• MILITARY
• OTHER:

4 AGENCY
REGIONAL HEADQUARTERS: (If applicable)
National Park Service - Western Region Office
STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue Box 36063
CITY, TOWN
San Francisco
STATE
California (94102)

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.
San Bernardino County Recorder's Office
STREET & NUMBER
172 West Third Street
CITY, TOWN
San Bernardino
STATE
California (92415)

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE

DATE

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
CITY, TOWN
STATE

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
The Wall Street Mill complex consisted of four structures: the mill and its machinery; the well and accompanying pump; a bunk house, now partially collapsed; an outhouse or privy, now almost totally collapsed.

The stamp mill building is framed with heavy timber and built on a downward sloping hillside to take advantage of gravity in the milling process. The roof and some of the exterior walls are covered with corrugated sheet metal, while some of the exterior walls have either vertical or horizontal wooden siding. At the top of the building a long wooden ramp supports the track of an ore tramway which carried ore from where it was unloaded from trucks to the top of the mill above the two-stamp Baker Iron Works crusher. A gasoline engine powered the mill; it was built by the Western Gas Engine Company of Los Angeles under patents dated 1906. It had a speed of 340 revolutions per minute. A Myer concentrating table was used in separating the gold from the ore.

This mill building is generally in good condition, although missing various windows, some floor boards and a stair.

The bunk house was a two storey structure which has partially collapsed in such fashion that it is difficult to ascertain what the original configuration of the building was. The walls are of wood frame construction, built directly on the earth without foundations. These walls are covered with rolled mineral surface paper held in place by broad-headed nails and wooden battens. There is no stair to the second floor and apparently never was one—access must have been by exterior ladder. The ground floor featured a bedroom, a kitchen, and a living room or parlor with a rubble stone fireplace. Crudely and flimsily built and much decayed, this bunkhouse is not regarded as being of significance.

The outhouse or privy, located some distance from the bunkhouse, is in an advanced state of collapse. The roof is missing except for three rafters; part of one side wall is gone; the door is missing; there is a large gap in the front wall beside the missing door. Like the bunkhouse, this ruin is not regarded as being of significance.
### SIGNIFICANCE

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<th>AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW</th>
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<td><em>X1900</em></td>
<td><em>OTHER SPECIFIC</em></td>
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**SPECIFIC DATES** c. 1933–present  
**BUILDER/ARCHITECT** William F. Keys

**STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**

The Wall Street Mill is of local technological/mechanical significance under the general category of Industry. The significance is due to the fact that it is a complete and operable gold ore crushing mill featuring late-19th Century two-stamp mill machinery. Consequently the significance encompasses the mill machinery, the building which houses it, the well which supplied water for the mill's operation, and the well pump. The adjacent, partially collapsed two-storey bunk house and the nearby collapsed outhouse or privy are regarded as irrelevant to the significance of the property.

The historical background is as follows:

The well at this location was used as early as 1896 to supply water for cattle, but it was not until 1928 that Earl McInnes and Oren Booth filed a claim on the well and adjacent land for use as a mill site. They may have built at least part of the frame bunkhouse. By July, 1930, however, they had sold out to William F. Keys and his wife, who recorded their ownership on July 9, 1930.

The two-stamp gold ore crushing mill was built by the Baker Iron Works in Los Angeles for E. Holland & Company in 1891. This was much smaller than the mill plants usually employed in important mines, yet much more sophisticated equipment than the average prospector and miner could afford. It was shipped probably by rail to Indio, then by wagon up Blue Cut Canon to Pinon Wells where initially it was used. About 1912 it passed to Sherwood & Company, and reportedly milled ore from the Dewey Mine.

Bill Keys reportedly purchased the mill in 1932 or 1933, and it was apparently he who moved it to its present site and erected the rather crude building which housed it. Keys operated the mill intermittently for about ten years, using it to crush ore from his various claims and, for a fee, to crush ore for other prospectors in the region who had no milling plant of their own. The plant apparently employed a mercury amalgamation process to recover the gold after the ore was crushed.

In 1943, Keys was sentenced to a term in San Quentin Prison and his mill closed. In 1947 or 1948, one of Keys' sons used the mill for about a year and a half. It remained idle from 1949 until the spring of 1966 when Keys, now paroled and pardoned, reopened the mill and operated it briefly, perhaps as much for sentimental as for practical reasons. It then shut down for the last time, although the plant is sufficiently complete that with a small investment of time and labor it could again be made operable.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES
Perkins Papers, Joshua Tree National Monument Library
Fact File, Joshua Tree National Monument Library

GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 15

ZONE EASTING NORTHING
A 11,1 518,0 155,5 3716,6 140,5
B 11,1 518,0 16,0 3716,6 20,5
C 11,1 517,9 20,0 3716,6 20,5
D 11,1 517,9 18,5 3716,6 140,0

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION
The boundary is a rectangle, with its longer axis running east and west, the corners specified in the above UTM references.

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME / TITLE
Gordon Chappell, Regional Historian
ORGANIZATION
National Park Service - Western Region Office
STREET & NUMBER
450 Golden Gate Avenue - Box 36063
CITY OR TOWN
San Francisco
STATE
California

CERTIFICATION OF NOMINATION
STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER RECOMMENDATION
YES X NO

FEDERAL REPRESENTATIVE SIGNATURE
TITLE Deputy Assistant Secretary
DATE SEP 5 1975

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
ATTEST:
KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
NAME
HISTORIC Wall Street Mill

LOCATION
CITY. TOWN: Joshua Tree National Monument
Vicinity of: Twentynine Palms
COUNTY: San Bernardino
STATE: California

PHOTO REFERENCE
PHOTO CREDIT: National Park Service photo
DATE OF PHOTO: December 1971
NEGATIVE FILED AT: Joshua Tree National Monument
Twentynine Palms, California

IDENTIFICATION
DESCRIBE VIEW, DIRECTION, ETC. IF DISTRICT, GIVE BUILDING NAME & STREET
Upper end of Wall Street Mill, showing loading ramp and ore car tramway
NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
PROPERTY PHOTOGRAPH FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES ENCLOSE WITH PHOTOGRAPH

1 NAME
HISTORIC
Wall Street Mill

2 LOCATION
CITY, TOWN
Joshua Tree National Monument

X VICINITY OF
Twentynine Palms

COUNTY
San Bernardino

STATE
California

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National Park Service photo

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Wall Street Well left center, with ore loading ramp and upper end of mill building at rear.
Partially collapsed bunk house at right center

PHOTO NO 2 of 2
The northeast quarter of this area is also covered by a 1:24,000 scale map of the Twentynine Palms 7.5 minute quadrangle, surveyed in 1955.

TWENTYNINE PALMS, CALIF.
N34°00'—W116°00'/5
1955
AMS 2752 II—SERIES V795

Wall Street Mill
Joshua Tree National Monument
San Bernardino County, California

(NW) 11 579895 3766400
(NW) 11 579900 3766200
(SE) 11 580160 3766205
(SE) 11 580155 3766405

and published by the Geological Survey
1955 and 1956
Ipswich prints for the U.S. Geological Survey

SCALE 1:62,500