

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

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

**1** NAME

HISTORIC

Dutch Mill

AND/OR COMMON

**2** LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Fabyan Park Forest Preserve, W of IL Route 25

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Batavia

VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

15

STATE

Illinois

CODE

012

COUNTY

Kane

CODE

089

**3** CLASSIFICATION

| CATEGORY                                      | OWNERSHIP                                   | STATUS  | PRESENT USE                            |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT             | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC  | <input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED                     | <input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE   | <input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)          | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE            | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED        | <input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> PARK                     |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE | <input type="checkbox"/> BOTH               | <input type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS             | <input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL   | <input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> SITE                 | <input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION | <input type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE                   | <input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT | <input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT               | <input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS         | <input type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED              | <input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC               |
|   | <input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED | <input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL    | <input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION           |
|   |   | <input type="checkbox"/> NO                           | <input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY      | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER: Exhibi |

**4** OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Kane County Forest Preserve District

STREET & NUMBER

719 Batavia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Geneva

VICINITY OF

STATE

Illinois

**5** LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Supervisor of Assesments

STREET & NUMBER

719 Batavia Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Geneva,

STATE

Illinois

**6** REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Landmarks in Kane County

DATE

May 1974

FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Illinois Department of Conservation

CITY, TOWN

Springfield

STATE

IL.

# DESCRIPTION

| CONDITION                                |                                       | CHECK ONE                                     | CHECK ONE                                 |
|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT       | <input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED | <input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE    |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> RUINS        | <input type="checkbox"/> ALTERED              | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FAIR            | <input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED    |   | DATE Oct. 15, 1914                        |

---

## DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Dutch Mill in Fabyan Park is an excellent example of a mid-nineteenth century Dutch smock mill. Smock mills are mills where only the cap containing the wind shaft rotates to position the fan of the mill in the wind. They are the mills traditionally found in the Netherlands, and were first brought from Holland to America by the Puritans.

Originally built around 1860 on York Road between the towns of Elmhurst and Oak Brook in DuPage County, Illinois, the sixty-eight foot mill was moved to its present location after Colonel George Fabyan purchased it on October 15, 1914. Fabyan, a noted inventor and cryptographer, bought the mill in bad shape for \$8000.00 and spent another \$70,000 to restore it to complete working condition.

The mill exterior is smooth dark brown shingles punctured at irregular intervals by small peak-roofed dormers. The outrigger brace which steadies the cap as it rotates is built of massive square-hewn oak timbers. The lower end of the brace is fastened to an iron wheel which rides on a large platform about fifteen feet off the ground. This arrangement allows the brace to rotate freely with the cap. Unfortunately, this mechanism and the fifty foot fan blades have been fixed in place, so the mill is not operative,

The interior of the mill is oak, cypress and black walnut. Members are pinned together by wooden dowels which are glued in place, no nails were used either in the original construction or the construction after relocation. Roman numerals which were carved into the larger members to facilitate reconstruction are still visible. The milling machinery is in excellent shape. A huge cog attached to the fanshaft drives a wooden rod which runs vertically the length of the mill, and supplies all power. Corn, rye, wheat and oats were ground (in measured portions), sifted, graded, and bagged by wind-powered machines as late as 1920.

When the mill was moved, new vanes and rotors were handcrafted for the fan, wood gears in the grinding mechanism were restored, and a new foundation of hand-mixed concrete was poured to replace the original masonry. In order to prevent vandalism, the mill is kept locked, but may be opened on request. The only other renovation since 1914 has been the periodic replacement of damaged minor structural members and a new facing of shingles applied sometime after 1955.

# SIGNIFICANCE

| PERIOD  | AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW |   |   |  |
|---|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> PREHIS. OHIC         | <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/HUMANITARIAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799            | <input type="checkbox"/> ART                     | <input 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 type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY               | <input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT    | <input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)     |
|   |  | <input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION              |   |  |

SPECIFIC DATES constructed c. 1850      BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Dutch Mill, Fabyan Park Forest Preserve, is an example of the rare art of wooden windmill construction. Unlike American pumping mills, the mill, with its Dutch antecedents, is a grist mill of the type rarely built in the United States where grain traditionally was milled by water power. The excellent technical features of both the interior and exterior make it a structure of interest to students of technology and architecture, and the beautiful interiors are a good example of the mid-nineteenth century crafts of wood carving and finishing. The mill is also one of few American follies, that is, an essentially useless structure built to enhance a landscape or view.\* Common in England throughout the Victorian period (where they took the form of ruined abbeys or Greek temples), the folly never caught the imagination of America's elite, and the Dutch Mill is one of few such structures in Illinois. For Colonel George Fabyan, a wealthy Geneva merchant, the Mill truly was a folly, as he had it moved and rebuilt to beautify his estate (now the forest preserve) and maintained it as a private mill that had no commercial value.

\* In their Penguin Dictionary of Architecture (Penguin Books, Baltimore, 1966) John Fleming and Hugh Honour define a folly as "a costly but useless structure built to satisfy the whim of some eccentric and thought to show his folly."

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED

DATE ENTERED

CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER 10 PAGE 1

VERBAL DESCRIPTION: Dutch Mill

In Township 39N Range 8E, West half of the Southeast quarter of section 10 East of the Third Principle Meridian: Locate point approximately 700 feet East and approximately 420 feet North of the intersection of the centerline of the concrete footbridge crossing the Fox River within the Fabyan Park Forest Preserve and the Eastern bank of the Fox River.

That part of said section in said township described thus: Commencing at said point approximately 700 feet East and approximately 420 feet North of the intersection described above, beginning North approximately 70 feet, thence West approximately 70 feet, thence South approximately 70 feet, thence East approximately 70 feet to origin in the Township of Geneva, County of Kane, State of Illinois.

--taken by the Supervisor of Assessments, Kane County, Illinois from aerial photographs (scale 1"-100 ft).

# 9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Adams, Bernice. "Windmill, Fabyan Forest Preserve." Kane County Forest Preserve District, Geneva, Illinois.

Hughes, H.C. "A Chronicle of Windmills." Country Life LXII, #1601 (September 24, 1927):421-4 (November 19, 1927):728-30

Records and Scrapbooks, Kane County Forest Preserve District, Geneva, Ill.

# 10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY less than one

QUADRANGLE NAME \_\_\_\_\_

QUADRANGLE SCALE \_\_\_\_\_

UTM REFERENCES

A 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

 B 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

 C 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

ZONE EASTING NORTHING

C 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

 D 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

D 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

E 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

 F 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

F 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

G 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

 H 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

H 

|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Continuation Sheet, p. 1

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

| STATE | CODE | COUNTY | CODE |
|-------|------|--------|------|
|       |      |        |      |
|       |      |        |      |

# 16 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Philip L. Pomerance / Architectural Historian

ORGANIZATION

Northeastern Illinois Planning Commission

DATE

July 24, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

400 W. Madison,

TELEPHONE

(312) 454-0400 ext. 256

CITY OR TOWN

Chicago

STATE

Illinois

# 17 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION