

**Historic Resources Survey  
City of McMinnville  
Yamhill County, Oregon**

**Site Information**

**Site Address**

**Owner at Time of Survey**

City of McMinnville

**Map/Tax Lot**

**Current Zoning**

**Special Tax Assessment**

**Downtown Historic District**

R4420AD

No

No

**Subdivision Name**

**Block**

**Lot**

**Lot Size**

**Quadrant**

NW

**Site Number**

**Aerial Number**

**Resource Classification**

**Resource Number**

**Historic Significance**

3.2

J-10

A

90

**Historic Information**

**Date of Construction**

**Early Additions/ Remodels**

**Builder/Architect**

1853

William Newby

**Historic Name**

**Original Use**

**Common Name**

**Present Use**

Covered Mill Race

Trans. water from Baker Creek to mill

Flume Wall

Relic

**Condition of Structure**

**Comments (at time of Survey)**

Poor

**Building Type**

**Outbuildings**

**Building Style**

**Stories**

Foundation Ruins from Newby's Mill

**Porch**

**Basement**

**Roof Style**

**Roof Type**

**Moved**

**Demolished**

**Year/Date**

**Permit Number(s)**

**Additions/ Alterations**

**Resource Information**

**Recorded By**

**Date**

**Sources**

Vince Lowe & Ruth Stroller

1983-84

Historic Resource Survey  
City of McMinnville  
Yamhill County, Oregon

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

A90

Across from 345 NW Star Mill Way at the western edge of McMinnville City Park, a brick wall 24 feet long can be seen. It is the thickness of two bricks laid across the wall in common bond. For most of its length, the wall is about four feet high, measured from the valley side of the wall. In the middle it is about six feet high. Here a semi-elliptical arch consisting of two courses of brick has been bricked up in common bond. This arched opened into what remains of the flume. At the wall the flume is about a yard wide and two feet deep. It is lined with large blackish-grey stones mortared together. The flume runs downhill about 150 feet. It is overgrown with blackberry bushes and other vegetation. It ends at the bottom of the hill in a drop over a four-foot wall of the same kind of stone. The area over which it drops might be covered with stone also, but this is not evident now. However, the sides of the area are lined with the stone, and V out to a distance of about twelve feet—that is, the ends of the V are this distance apart.

This flume carried water around the end of the millpond to an over-shot water wheel that helped run the Star Mill after it was moved in 1882 from the east to the west side of the present city park. The original mill built by William T. Newby was located near the end of Third Street. The later mill pond and the original mill received their water supply from a ditch dug in 1853 at the instigation of Mr. Newby. Water was brought from Baker Creek. The original ditch can still be seen west of town, cutting across the fields in a straight line toward City Park.

(According to Alice Daniel, this structure is not the original flume, but was built with the brick from the mill when it was raised.)

State of Oregon Inventory  
Historic Sites and Buildings  
State Historic Preservation Offices,  
Oregon State Parks, Salem 97310

Statement of historical significance and description of property:

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This important gristmill site, the prime factor in the platting, settlement, and development of McMinnville, Oregon, is located near the banks of Cozine Creek in the town's City Park. The site includes two millstones mounted as landmarks at the site of the Star Mill (built in 1881) and, approximately 200 feet east, the stone footings of the building that once housed the original William Newby gristmill.

In 1853 William Newby, who had settled on the Donation Land Claim, cut a ditch from Baker Creek to the north to bring water to a site where he had erected a gristmill. The diverted water then flowed into Cozine Creek and on into the Yamhill River. Newby had mill stones cut in Oregon City. These he brought by boat and ox team to his mill. In 1854 Sebastian Adams and Newby laid out McMinnville around the mill. In 1859 Robert C. Kinney purchased the Newby Mill; he purchased the Salem mills in 1875 and continued to expand his interests. By 1881 the Kinney mill at McMinnville was closed, but in that year John Sax, a Swiss, built the Star Mill at the site. The Sax mill had twenty-four inch stones. It burned in 1885. After Sax's death in 1889 the mill, a three story brick building with a stone basement, was sold to Dave Stout and John Martin. The men rebuilt the mill in 1890 or 1891 and ran it until 1894 when H. M. Daniel bought Martin's half interest. Daniel bought out Stout's interest in 1902. Ivan Daniel then entered the business with his father and continued operating the mill until H. M. Daniel died in December 1908. The Star Mill continued to operate until July 1921. In 1927, while the building was used for apple storage, it burned.

**Historic Resource No. A90**





Original 1983 Survey Photos