Project partner: Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri, in partnership with Passport In Time

History:

In the 19th century, water milling was an essential industry that provided farmers access to grain processing and rural populations access to flour. Samuel Greer, an early settler of Oregon County, MO, built Greer Roller Mill in 1899 with his partner, George Mainprize. This mill is unique in its location, ¾ miles uphill from Greer Spring, which required the use of an ingenious system of cables and pulleys to harness the power of the spring. After 1899, the ownership of the Greer Mill changed hands many times. Operations ended in 1920, most likely because of increased competition supplied by the railroads built in the Ozarks. Today, Greer Mill is a majestic building in a wooded setting above the dramatic landscape of Greer Spring. Read more about Greer Roller Mill here.

In 2014, HistoriCorps completed the first phase of rehabilitation work at Greer Mill in partnership with Passport In Time and the Mark Twain National Forest. The work included reconstruction of the structural members on the west elevation, rebuilding and repointing the foundation on the west elevation, residing the west elevation to a height of 8’ above grade, stabilizing an interior bent, and minor repair of stairs and infill of window openings. In 2015, HistoriCorps and Passport In Time volunteers returned to Greer Mill to spend two weeks focusing on wall stabilization, framing, and siding replacement.

Scope of Work:

HistoriCorps returned to Greer Mill for our 3rd year of work! Volunteers worked with HistoriCorps’ field staff and the Forest Service to:

- Repaired deteriorated timber framing in the SE corner of the the 1st and 3rd floors of the mill
- Rebuilt the loading bay roof and deck to match its original appearance, depth and width

Project Location:

The Greer Roller Mill is located near Eleven Point River in Mark Twain National Forest, Missouri. The site is on the west side of State Hwy 19, about 10 miles north of Alton.

HistoriCorps is a serving learning partner of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture committed to the preservation and stewardship of significant resources on public lands.