George Jackson's Mill and Dam
Clarksburg, WV

The first court of Harrison County, WV was held in May 1784, at George Jackson's home in the Buckhannon Settlement and, as a result, Clarksburg became the new county seat. At this session George was given permission to "build a mill on his premises in or adjoining Clarksburg on Elk Creek as that said Jackson doth not affect no other person's land."[1] The mill was built approximately 100 feet south of the East Main Street bridge. This was the location of Lot #1 on the 1793 survey, that George purchased from Daniel Davisson on February 21, 1791.[2]

"The mill was a small log affair with millstones, or buhrs, of native sandstone and cogwheels of wood...it was rebuilt and equipped with machinery after wagons could be brought to the county. Jackson sold the business to Dr. William Williams on May 27, 1815, for ten thousand dollars. Dr. William operated the mill until September 24, 1829, when he sold it to Dr. Michael D. Gittings, who during the twenty-four years he owned the establishment probably changed from waterpower to steam power then sold the mill for nine thousand dollars more that he paid for it. The new owner John S. Carlile, was the net proprietor for only two years before the long-lived concern passed to Samuel R. Steel, a skilled worker trained by his father, head miller of the "Point" mill. In 1876, R. T. Lowndes and John Chorpening bought the mill after Steel went bankrupt: the Lowndes-Chorpening interests continued operating the money-making business until 1919. Finally, in 1923, the building fell to the last owner of the property, the Clarksburg Automobile Company, which tore down the structure in 1929".[3]

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[1] *Harrison County Minute Book 1784-1792,* page 5.
[2] *Harrison County Deed Book 1/226.*
[3] Davis, Dorothy, *History of Harrison County, West Virginia,* 1970, p.672. She sites, Henry W. Hamer, *Old Grist Mills of Harrison County, pp.50-56.*