

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania
COUNTY: Montgomery
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE

1. NAME

COMMON: Pottstown Roller Mill
AND/OR HISTORIC:

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER: South and Hanover Streets			
CITY OR TOWN: Pottstown		CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: 5	
STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42	COUNTY: Montgomery	CODE: 091

3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure 	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both 	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress 	Yes: <input type="checkbox"/> Restricted <input type="checkbox"/> Unrestricted <input type="checkbox"/> No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment 	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum 	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific 	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify)

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME: Pottstown Roller Mill		
STREET AND NUMBER: South and Hanover Streets		
CITY OR TOWN: Pottstown	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC: Montgomery County Court House		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN: Norristown	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE: 42

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:		
DATE OF SURVEY: <input type="checkbox"/> Federal <input type="checkbox"/> State <input type="checkbox"/> County <input type="checkbox"/> Local		
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:		
STREET AND NUMBER:		
CITY OR TOWN:	STATE:	CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania
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 ENTRY NUMBER:
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input type="checkbox"/> Unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The original structure of the Pottstown Roller Mill was built in 1725 near the mouth of the Manatawny which flows into the Schuylkill River. Constructed of random fieldstone this early section was probably two stories high, three bays across, and two bays deep.

Because of its numerous owners the mill was stuccoed over, rebuilt, and added to many times. One of the earlier alterations was recorded in the plaster of a wall and bears the date 1849. A major change occurred in 1856 when two brick stories were added to the original stone structure and the exterior was stuccoed over. The owners responsible for this construction were Henry and Jacob H. Gabel. Later, subsequent owners more than doubled the 45 by 50 feet mill of 1856 with a solid brick addition five bays across. The gable roof of this larger addition crosses the gable roof of the original section. Both sections have central elevator shafts which extend above the cornice line.

Six-over-six sash windows are consistent throughout the entire structure and were probably installed during the latter part of the nineteenth century. Tie rods are visible between the floors of the larger brick addition.

One of the most significant features is the mill race with dam which connects the mill to the Manatawny. During the eighteenth century John Potts, founder of Pottstown, accorded water rights to the mill owners in his will. Since that time the mill has continued to operate on water power supplied by this mill race. Its original stone arches like the building were reconstructed in the nineteenth century.

While the original structure is not easily distinguishable the nearly 250-year old mill is accepted as being the oldest manufacturing company in Pottstown with an uninterrupted history.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian; 16th Century 18th Century 20th Century
 15th Century 17th Century 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) **1725, 1849, and 1856**

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Phi- | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | osophy | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Human- | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | itarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Built in 1725 the Pottstown Roller Mill located along the Schuylkill River at the mouth of the Manatawny is the oldest continuing manufacturing company in Pottstown and is believed to be one of the earliest grain (grist) mills in Pennsylvania. The original structure subject to extensive alteration in the past is now contained within a mid-nineteenth century building.

Several historical events have been associated with this mill. During an Indian skirmish in 1729 the inhabitants of the vicinity assembled together for safety and protection at the mill. More significant its machines provided the grain and flour for the Continental Army of the Revolutionary War.

Although historians are uncertain as to who built the original structure, the water rights for the race mill were granted in the will of John Potts. The various known owners of the mill begin with Jesse Ives who from the end of the eighteenth century to the middle of the nineteenth operated the mill. One of the alterations to the structure occurred at the end of Ives' tenure in 1849. Record of this alteration is plastered in a wall of the present building. Succeeding owners were Henry and Jacob H. Gabel who rebuilt the mill in 1856 and furnished it with the best machinery. At that time the structure, known as Gabel's mill, measured 45 by 50 feet and was four stories high. Following the Gabels, ownership of the mill changed five times. Today the mill is no longer used as a flour mill, but continues to grind corn for feed. It is significant that the elevators or conveyors, used to lift the grain from the lower level to the upper levels, are still operated by means of water power.

Both the building and its machinery are an excellent example of the ingenuity and technical know how of early American industrial pioneers. The building could serve as a museum, demonstrating the use and techniques of many simple machines.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

A History of Pottstown, Pennsylvania. Pottstown: The Historical Society of Pottstown, 1953.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds
NW	° ' "	° ' "	40	14	36
NE	° ' "	° ' "	75	39	09
SE	° ' "	° ' "			
SW	° ' "	° ' "			

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 1 1/2 acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
Janet C. Smith -- Student Aide

ORGANIZATION: **Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission** DATE: **July, 1974**

STREET AND NUMBER:
William Penn Memorial Museum, Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: **Harrisburg** STATE: **Pennsylvania** CODE: **42**

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison 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. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:

National State Local

Name: *William J. ...*
Executive Director

Title: Pa. Historical and Museum Comm.

Date: 9/20/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register.

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date _____

ATTEST:

Keeper of The National Register

Date _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

PENNSYLVANIA
7.5 MINUTE SERIES (TOPOGRAPHIC)

5864 1.5
(SASSAMANS)

BOYERTOWN (P.O.) 6.4 MI.
HALFWAY HOUSE 2.6 MI.

PENNSBURG 13 MI.
NEW HANOVER 4.5 MI.

75°37'30"

43 40'

45

46

40°15'



340 000
FEET

*Pottstown
Roller Mills*

SANATOGA 1.6 MI.
NORRISTOWN (P.O.) 1.8 MI.

PARKER FORD 2.9 MI.
PHOENIXVILLE 9.5 MI.

4452

4451

12'30"

4450