

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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DATE ENTERED

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

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

1 NAME

HISTORIC SPRINGFIELD MILL

AND/OR COMMON  
Piper/Streeper Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER  
On Northwestern Ave. Between Germantown Ave. & Bethlehem Pike

CITY, TOWN ERDENHEIM VICINITY OF 13th CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE  
Pennsylvania 42 Montgomery 091

3 CLASSIFICATION

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

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME The University of Pennsylvania, Morris Arboretum

STREET & NUMBER  
Route 5

CITY, TOWN Philadelphia VICINITY OF STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Montgomery County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER Swede and Main Streets

CITY, TOWN Norristown STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places

DATE 1976 FEDERAL  STATE  COUNTY  LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission  
William Penn Memorial Museum

CITY, TOWN Box 1026 HARRISBURG STATE Pennsylvania

# 7 DESCRIPTION

## CONDITION

EXCELLENT  
 GOOD  
 FAIR

DETERIORATED  
 RUINS  
 UNEXPOSED

## CHECK ONE

UNALTERED  
 ALTERED

## CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE  
 MOVED DATE \_\_\_\_\_

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The present Springfield Mill was constructed in 1854 on an outcrop of limestone approximately 16 feet above the Wissahickon Creek. Three walls of the mill are built out of locally quarried limestone covered with stucco mortar and measures approximately 22 inches thick. The west wall however is constructed of clapboard siding. The base of the mill measures 35½ feet in width and 40 3/4 feet in length. The mill rises 3½ stories in height.

The south facade features loading doors at each level with a pediment which extends outward for the hoist. Windows are located on either side of the doorway at all 3 levels. The north facade is similar with the absence of the loading doors and the placement of an entranceway to one side at ground level. All openings are presently boarded up. The east facade features a loading door at the second floor level with window openings at all three levels; ground level openings are presently boarded up. The gable features a palladian-style window with side vents and interior shutters.

The mill has iron tie rods at various points. The supporting beams are 10" x 12" chamfered timbers, all of which are pegged and mortised. Perhaps the most interesting structural detail is the truss support for the roof. The support consists of two rows of trusses, one on either side of the attic. These support the rafters which have no ridge beam.

The first floor interior contains the drive machinery for the millstones. Power is transmitted through a horizontal shaft which protrudes through the west wall where it connects with a turbine. The shaft then transmits its power vertically through the use of a large wood tooth gear which engages with two other sets of gears whose shafts run the grindstones on the floor above. The second floor also contains grain shoots, cribs, a burr mill, and grain bolter. The third floor houses 4 corn bins, a mixer, a corn sheller, shoots, and corn cribs.

The site also contains the miller's house, built approximately 1845, a 2½ story, 4 bay structure with Greek Revival elements.

# **SIGNIFICANCE**

## PERIOD

- PREHISTORIC
- 1400-1499
- 1500-1599
- 1600-1699
- 1700-1799
- 1800-1899
- 1900-

- ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC
- ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC
- AGRICULTURE
- ARCHITECTURE
- ART
- COMMERCE
- COMMUNICATIONS

## AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW

- COMMUNITY PLANNING
- CONSERVATION
- ECONOMICS
- EDUCATION
- ENGINEERING
- EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT
- INDUSTRY
- INVENTION

- LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE
- LAW
- LITERATURE
- MILITARY
- MUSIC
- PHILOSOPHY
- POLITICS/GOVERNMENT

- RELIGION
- SCIENCE
- SCULPTURE
- SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
- THEATER
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER (SPECIFY)

SPECIFIC DATES    1854

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Springfield Mill originally was built around 1761. The name, Piper/Streeper Mill, refers to the owners of the original mill on the site. The present mill dates from 1854 and was built on the foundation of the earlier one. The mill remained in operation well into the 20th century and still retains much of the machinery necessary for operation, most of which dates to the 1850-1900 period, although some parts date to post-1900.

The Springfield Township area was once a major center of the milling industry. Mills were constructed all along the Wissahickon Creek during the late 18th thru the mid-19th century. According to one source, at least 52 mills were built along the Creek. The Springfield Mill is one of the very few which remains.

**9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES**

Bean, Theodore. The History of Montgomery County. Everts & Peck, Philadelphia, 1884.  
 Liggett, Barbara. The History of Springfield Township 1700-1800. Not published.  
 Macfarlan, Douglas. The Wissiohickon Mills. Not published. Vol. 2, pp. 70-71, Philadelphia, Library.  
Montgomery County Atlas 1877 - Montgomery County Atlas 1909

**10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA**

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

B	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
D	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>	<input type="text"/>

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE
STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

**11 FORM PREPARED BY**

NAME / TITLE

Mr. Bruce Forman

ORGANIZATION

The Historical Society of FortWashington

DATE

Oct., 1975

STREET & NUMBER

702 Avondale Road

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Erdenheim

STATE

Pennsylvania

**12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION**

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL \_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_ LOCAL X

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

Executive Director

Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST:

DATE

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

