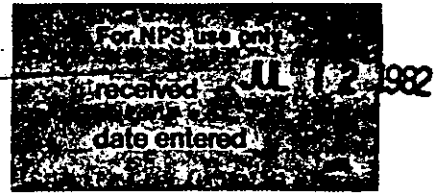


JUN 8 1982

OMB 1010-0044 EXP. 12, 31, 84

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

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 The Lancaster Watch Company

and/or common HMW Industries (also commonly called Hamilton Watch)

2. Location

street & number 901 Columbia Avenue N/A not for publication

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of congressional district 16

state Pennsylvania 17603 code 042 county Lancaster code 071

3. Classification

Table with 4 columns: Category, Ownership, Status, Present Use. Includes options like district, building(s), site, object, public/private/both, occupied/unoccupied/work in progress, accessible (yes/restricted/unrestricted/no), agriculture/commercial/educational/entertainment/government/industrial/military, museum/park/private residence/religious/scientific/transportation/other: Vacant.

4. Owner of Property

name HMW Industries

street & number 901 Columbia Avenue

city, town Lancaster N/A vicinity of state Pennsylvania 17603

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Register of Deeds, Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number 50 North Duke St.

city, town Lancaster state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Survey of Lancaster City Architecture

has this property been determined eligible? yes X no

date 1978 - 1980 federal state county X local

depository for survey records Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

city, town 123 North Prince Street, Lancaster state Pennsylvania 17603

7. Description

Condition		Check one	Check one	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date _____
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			N/A

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The complex of buildings at HMW Industries, originally called the Lancaster Watch Company and often commonly called Hamilton Watch, is an aggregate of more than two dozen structures situated in that block bounded by Columbia Avenue, West End Avenue, Race Avenue, and Wheatland Avenue. The main block follows the east-west axis of Columbia Avenue. The roofline is articulated by prominent clock towers with mansard roofs made of sheet cooper. The overall configuration of these buildings resembles the letter "E" due to the presence of three major wings which project to the north. On the south elevation, midway between the east and west clock towers, is a projecting Office Building. The general height of all major buildings is four stories, with high basements and corbelled brick cornices. All exterior walls are built of red brick laid in common bond with light mortar joints. With the exception of the mansard roofs of the two clock towers, all other roofs are either flat or low-pitched gable structures. In most of the buildings predating c. 1920, there are wood window frames with a variety of wood window sash: six-over-six, four-over-four, two-over-two. In these buildings predating c. 1920, the window openings are spanned by true arches and segmental arches. For the buildings postdating c. 1930, most window openings are rectangular, with metal sash; exceptions are the one-over-one sash of the 1941 Office Building. For all major elevations of the buildings predating c. 1930, brick buttresses divide the exterior wall surface into regular bays.

The historical and visual intergrity of these buildings is to be understood as a group dating from 1874 to 1963 in which are mirrored four architectural styles: the mill/warehouse style of the nineteenth century; the Second Empire Style; the Art Deco or Moderne; and the International Style. Many design features of the original 1874-1875 building, now the expanded eastern clock tower section, have influenced the harmonious developemnt of the later structures. Elements of that were adapted or copied in the later structures include the use of red brick, the division of the walls into regular bays, the corbelled brick cornices, and the clock tower. Even the 1941 Office Building (Art Deco) and the 1963 western addition (Late International Style) echo the building materials, roofline, scale, and division of bays seen in the earlier parts. This design unity is further enhanced by the fact that the complex is entirely contained within one city block. Finally, the trees and plantings, of which the oldest date c. 1910 - 1924, give a park like atmosphere to the expansive facade of the building. The basic structural system of the buildings dating c. 1874 - 1935 consists of weight-bearing masonry walls with wood beams. Structural steel and exterior brick walls were employed for the buildings dating from 1936-1963. All the interior spaces are utilitarian, befitting the functional nature of the buildings. Hence, neither interior photographs nor floor plans are pertinent.

It should be noted that all major parts of this complex contribute to the architectural and historical intergrity of this site. However, several minor parts, including the large water tower, an open storage shed, and a small guardhouse (all in the northern part of the complex) do not contribute to the character or quality of the other structures.

For detailed descriptions and photographs, see Appendix I

8. Significant

Period	Areas of Significance—Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-prehistoric	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> religion
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology-historic	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> sculpture
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> social/
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates 1874 - 1963 **Builder/Architect** Many; see Appendix II

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

The HMW Buildings, locally designated as Hamilton Watch, are significant for their roles in industrial history, as the site of the first large scale production of several inventions in horology, and as interesting examples of industrial architecture. Founded as the Adams and Perry Watch Company in 1874, the business was the first to mass-produce watches in Lancaster County. Soon after being reorganized in 1877, the company made the first American watch movements employing the double escapement mechanism.* After the firm was incorporated as the Hamilton Watch Company in 1892, it became one of the country's leading manufacturers of timekeepers. Within the three generations following 1892, Hamilton Watch gained a national reputation for three innovations: the development of accurate watches for railroad conductors and inspectors; the production of chronometers in World War I and World War II; and the introduction of the world's first electric wrist watch. In 1893, the Hamilton Watch Company was marketing accurate watches for the use of railroad personnel. By 1903, the slogans "Hamilton - The Railroad Timekeeper of America" and "The Watch of Railroad Accuracy" testified to Hamilton's reputation. In both the First and Second World Wars, the Hamilton Watch Company produced marine chronometers. Most important were the 11,000 Model 21 Marine Chronometers made during World War II; the Navy considered them to be the "world's most accurate portable timepiece." In January, 1957, the company introduced the world's first electric wrist watch, following years of experimentation.** As architecture, the buildings represent an expansive and harmonious assemblage with an interesting combination of architectural styles. The Second Empire Style of the 1874 building designed by C. L. Stiles has left its mark in the two clock towers with mansard roofs, while the prevailing character of most of the buildings is that of late nineteenth or early twentieth century warehouse/mill type buildings. The Art Deco Style is evident in the 1941 Office Building, and some influence of the International Style may be perceived in the western addition completed in 1963. This balance between stylistic diversity and unity of the whole gives the architecture of the HMW Buildings a unique character.***

* For other early inventions pertinent here, see appendix III

** For substantiation of the roles in industrial history, see Appendices III and IV; also bibliographical references 8, 9, 11, and 15.

*** For more detailed architectural history, see Appendix II

9. Major Bibliographical Reference

Refer to detailed bibliography in Appendix V

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property 7.4043 Acres

Quadrangle name Lancaster Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1:24000

UMT References

A

1	8	3	8	6	0	8	0	4	4	3	2	7	8	0
Zone Easting				Northing										

B

1	8	3	8	6	0	4	0	4	4	3	2	6	2	0
Zone Easting				Northing										

C

1	8	3	8	6	8	4	0	4	4	3	2	6	4	0
Zone Easting				Northing										

D

1	8	3	8	6	8	8	0	4	4	3	2	8	0	0
Zone Easting				Northing										

E

Zone Easting				Northing										

F

Zone Easting				Northing										

G

Zone Easting				Northing										

H

Zone Easting				Northing										

Verbal boundary description and justification Commencing at the northwest corner of West End Avenue and Columbia Avenue, the property extends west along Columbia Avenue to Race Street; thence north on Race Street to Wheatland Avenue; thence east on Wheatland Avenue to the rear of 50 West End Avenue: Continued on Separate Sheet

List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

state N/A code N/A county N/A code N/A

11. Form Prepared By

name/title John J. Snyder, Jr. Consulting Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County date May 1982

street & number 123 North Prince Street telephone 717-291-5861

city or town Lancaster, state Pennsylvania 17603

12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification

The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:

national state local

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 

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date 7/9/82 (date of letter)

For NPS use only

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

 date 7/29/82
Keeper of the National Register

Attest:  date 7/23/82
Chief of Registration

10. Geographical Data - Verbal boundary description and justification - (continued)

thence south along the rear property lines of 42 - 50 West End Avenue; thence east along the south property line of 42 West End Avenue to said Avenue; and southward on the Avenue to the beginning point.

The Lancaster Watch Company
 Lancaster County N4432780
 Zone 18 A E386080 N4432620
 B E386040 N4432640
 C E386840 N4432640
 D E386880 N4432800

