

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

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES  
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

**1. NAME**

COMMON:  
Hill's Sawmill

AND/OR HISTORIC:  
Holbert and Branning Mill; Duck Harbor Lumber and Chemical Company

**2. LOCATION**

STREET AND NUMBER:  
RR #1, 500' west of intersection of Damascus Township Roads T676 & T662

CITY OR TOWN:  
Equinunk

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT:  
Tenth Congressional District

STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42      COUNTY: Wayne      CODE: 127

**3. CLASSIFICATION**

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Structure <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input type="checkbox"/> Both	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input 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:  
Duck Harbor Lumber and Chemical Company, Inc.

STREET AND NUMBER:  
RR #1

CITY OR TOWN:  
Equinunk

STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

**5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION**

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.:  
Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Wayne County Courthouse

STREET AND NUMBER:  
Box 566

CITY OR TOWN:  
Honesdale

STATE: Pennsylvania      CODE: 42

**6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS**

TITLE OF SURVEY:

DATE OF SURVEY:       Federal     State     County     Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:

STREET AND NUMBER:

CITY OR TOWN:      STATE:      CODE:

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: Pennsylvania  
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DATE  
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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)				
	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins
	(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

A number of photographs have been attached showing the mill in its present condition plus some which show it in operation in 1972. There have been some changes in the mill during its 100 years of operation, but not as many as might be expected. The most obvious of these is that removal of the overshot wheel in 1915, which was replaced by a turbine. The original turbine is still used, although the inner works (gears, etc.) have been replaced on occasion. From the turbine on inside the mill the original works remain the same. There has been a protrusion removed from the southeast corner of the building and a portion of the stone wall beneath has been replaced by concrete. Other changes have been only minor in nature and can be seen by comparing the 1898 photograph with present day pictures. The essential workings of the mill are identical to those of 100 years with the exception of the turbine addition, itself now old.

The building is two stories in height, approximately 70' long and 25' wide, has a gable type tin roof, has only a few sliding-door type windows and two large doors; one facing the road and the other the floating pond. The dam is a stone wall type as is most of the building foundation. The main drive gears and pulleys are all wood and original. One drive gear from the turbine up has replaceable wooden teeth made to act as shearing mechanisms should the machinery be put under too much pressure. The attached photographs give a complete picture of the floor plan and show the mill in operation. The workings underneath are also shown in a small photograph. The large wheel is used to wind up the tow rope to bring logs out of the floating pond and into the mill. A complex system of gears and pulleys supply the saw with generous power. These are also shown in the photographs.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
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(Number all entries)

Description (con't)

The mill is in excellent condition with nothing removed or added to deter from its historic qualities. It was last operated slightly over one year ago and could still be engaged at any time. The reason for discontinuing operation at that time was labor and not anything to do with the condition of the mill or its equipment. The only "modern" convenience is one light bulb and that is powered by electricity generated from water power.

Hill's Mill is already an unofficial landmark and tourist attraction to people throughout Wayne County and Northeastern United States. Mr. Joel Hill, present owner, has entertained visitors free of charge for the past 15 years. This historic mill could play a large role in the recreational development of the area as a tourist attraction if it were to be registered as an official landmark. Nearby is Duck Harbor, with State owned public access for fishing and boating and also the Delaware River, now proposed as a National Scenic and Recreational River by the Federal Bureau of Outdoor Recreation. The designation of Hill's Mill as a historic landmark will complement and further accent the natural and historic features that give so much advantage to our Wayne County landscape.

**8 SIGNIFICANCE**

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

<input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian	<input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century
<input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century	<input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 19th Century	

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

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

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

Hill's Mill is significant from several standpoints including its representation of a former industry, the fact that it has remained intact for over 100 years, the fact that it was owned by one of the wealthy people of the era, a State Senator, and because of its current status as a tourist attraction.

In the History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties by Alfred Matthews, 1886, it is stated that "About 1862, in company with John D. Branning of Damascus Township, Wayne County, he (William Holbert) purchased some seven or eight thousand acres of land, part now called Duck Harbor and the other part Equinunk. He commenced at once active operations and is undoubtedly entitled to be called the father of the immense lumber interest which has since become so important an item for the county." . . . "In 1876 he (Joseph G. Holbert) removed to Camden, N.J. and erected large lumber mills under the style of Holbert and Brannings, still in operation as Stanton and Branning. . . ."

The mill was built in 1873 by William Holbert and John Branning and was purchased by Joel G. Hill. Mr. Hill was a Pennsylvania State Senator. In 1915 he switched the mill from an overshot to a turbine. In the Illustrated History of Wayne County by Benjamin Haines, 1900, it was stated that "Duck Harbor for many years has been the chief lumber tract in eastern Wayne. Millions of feet of lumber have been hauled from there to the Delaware by Messrs. Holbert and Joel G. Hill. At the present time the latter owns the whole tract. Mr. Hill has made a great success of both agricultural and lumbering industries." Today most of the property is still in the hands of the Hill heirs, including the four-acre parcel on which the mill to process the lumber was located and still stands. More detailed accounts of the history of this site are given in news items attached with a few minor errors. The mill is not only a representation, a heritage of a former period in Wayne County's and Pennsylvania's history when lumbering was the king industry; it is also a rare artifact in itself.

Hill's Mill is to the best of our knowledge the only remaining water powered sawmill in Wayne County and Northeastern Pennsylvania. As evidenced by the previously quoted turn-of-the-century passages and the 1898 post card, the outstanding example of the water powered sawmills so prevalent at that time is the same one left in operative condition today. Hill's Mill provides us with not just an example, but the best example of a past industry.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Haines, Benjamin, Illustrated History of Wayne County, published by Wayne Independent, 1900, page 119.  
 Matthew, Alfred, History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties, published by Peck and Company, Philadelphia, 1886, page 637.  
 Pollock, John, "Old Wayne County Mill Still Using Water Power", published in Grit, April 15, 1973, page 10.  
 Pollock, John, "Last of Wayne Water Powered Mills Still at Duck Harbor", published in Wayne Independent, July 18, 1972, page 2.  
 Raineri, Robert, "A Stubborn Tie With the Past", Inscape, published by St. Peter's Prep, Jersey City, 1972, page 18.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	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	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	00° 00' 00"	00° 00' 00"		41° 45' 08"	75° 11' 38"	
NE	00° 00' 00"	00° 00' 00"				
SE	00° 00' 00"	00° 00' 00"				
SW	00° 00' 00"	00° 00' 00"				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: four acres

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE: Thomas Shepstone, Wayne County Director of Planning

ORGANIZATION: Wayne County Planning Commission DATE: May 30, 1974

STREET AND NUMBER: Box 566 717/253-4700

CITY OR TOWN: Honesdale 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. Wewer  
 Title Executive Director

PA. HIST. & MUSEUM COMMISSION

Date 9/19/74

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

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

Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

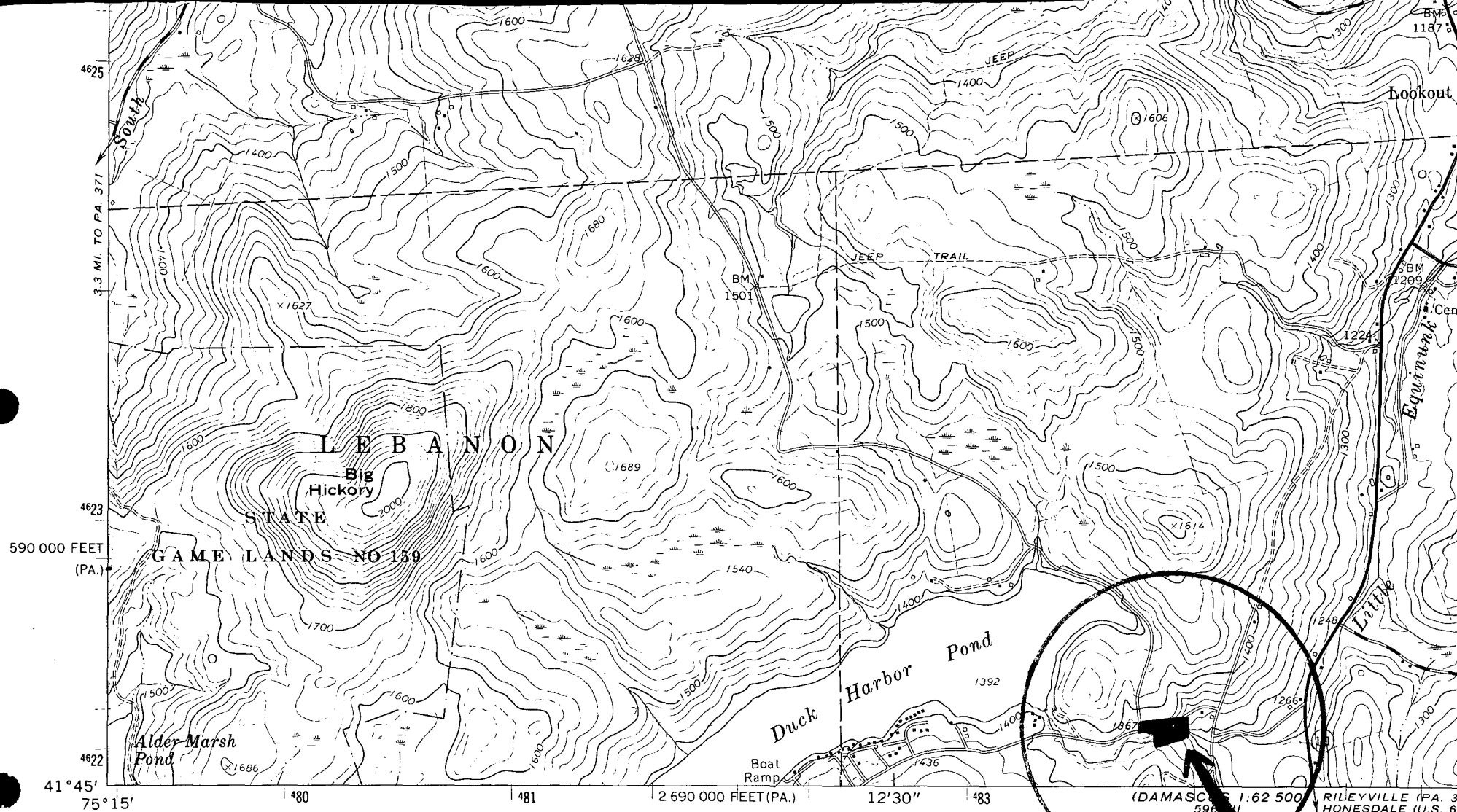
Date \_\_\_\_\_

ATTEST: \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of The National Register

Date \_\_\_\_\_

SEE INSTRUCTIONS



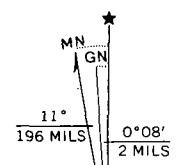
(ALDENVILLE)  
5987 III NE

Mapped, edited, and published by the Geological Survey  
in cooperation with New York Department of Public Works  
Control by USGS and USC&GS

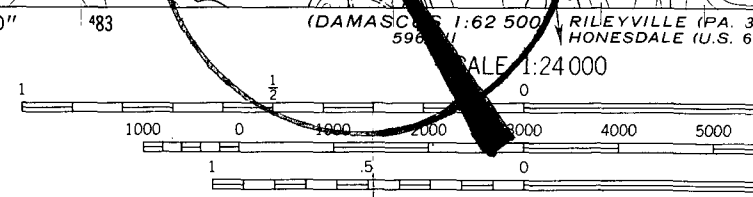
Topography by photogrammetric methods from aerial  
photographs taken 1963. Field checked 1965

Polyconic projection. 1927 North American datum  
10,000-foot grids based on Pennsylvania coordinate system, north zone,  
and New York coordinate system, east zone  
1000-meter Universal Transverse Mercator grid ticks,  
zone 18, shown in blue

Fine red dashed lines indicate selected fence and field lines where  
generally visible on aerial photographs. This information is unchecked



UTM GRID AND 1965 MAGNETIC NORTH  
DECLINATION AT CENTER OF SHEET



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY ST.  
FOR SALE BY U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON  
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVA