

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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**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

Brockershoff Mill

AND/OR COMMON

Roopsburg Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Corner of Route 550 and L.R. 14040

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Benner Township

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE

COUNTY

Centre

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

- DISTRICT
- BUILDING(S)
- STRUCTURE
- SITE
- OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

- PUBLIC
- PRIVATE
- BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

- IN PROCESS
- BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

- OCCUPIED
- UNOCCUPIED
- WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

- YES: RESTRICTED
- YES: UNRESTRICTED
- NO

PRESENT USE

- AGRICULTURE
- COMMERICAL
- EDUCATIONAL
- ENTERTAINMENT
- GOVERNMENT
- INDUSTRIAL
- MILITARY
- MUSEUM
- PARK
- PRIVATE RESIDENCE
- RELIGIOUS
- SCIENTIFIC
- TRANSPORTATION
- OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Mr. Nuri Mohsenin

STREET & NUMBER

120 Meadow Lane

CITY, TOWN

State College, PA 16801

STATE

VICINITY OF

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Office of the Recorder of Deeds, Centre County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

Allegheny Street

CITY, TOWN

Bellefonte

STATE

Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

None

DATE

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE		CHECK ONE	
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE		
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED	DATE	c. 1862
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED				

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Situated on the west side of Spring Creek approximately one mile west southwest of Bellefonte, the Brockerhoff Mill is a prominent four story brick structure built on a heavy limestone foundation. The structure measures 56' by 40' and has a main gable axis oriented north and south. The mill, built c. 1862 (Linn, 1883: 258), is associated with a mill race (now in ruins) extending approximately 3100' in a southerly direction to a point where it joins Spring Creek. The tail race has, for the most part, been obliterated by L.R. 14040. At present there are no other buildings associated with the mill. The building is in good condition. With the exception of a three story, 24' by 10' concrete block utility shaft at the rear of the structure, there has been little modification of the building that was not connected with its operation as a mill. The present owner is currently trying to stabilize the structure. Aware of its value as an architectural and historical resource, he has plans for a careful adaptive rehabilitation of the building.

The mill today stands at the southwestern corner of Route 550 and Slaughterhouse Road (L.R. 14040) in a sparsely settled area west of Bellefonte. It is approximately 95' south of Route 550 and 15' west of Slaughterhouse Road. Directly across Slaughterhouse Road is a medium sized white Georgian I house with several outbuildings. No other buildings are visible from the site.

The remains of the head race are visible south of the mill. Approximately 10' wide and 4' deep, the race is quite overgrown. It runs close to the west shoulder of Slaughterhouse Road until it crosses to the east side of the road approximately 1050' from the mill. Here the race turns in a southwesterly direction following Spring Creek until it intersects the creek approximately 3000' south-southwest of the mill. There is evidence of a concrete lip along the rim of the race. About 100' south of the mill there is a large iron culvert mounted in a small concrete gate. Also mounted in this gate is a smaller diversion tunnel leading off in the direction of Spring Creek.

The west facade of the building originally had five symmetrically placed bays across the first three stories. Recently, the two southernmost windows on the first and second stories have been enlarged into doorways providing access to the utility shaft (see Photo # 2).

The north side of the building has the most irregular arrangement of bays. It appears that two doorways flanking a large 103" by 73" sliding door were bricked in sometime after the construction of the mill. On the second story two windows occupy the eastern and central positions while a door with transom light is in the western position. The third floor has three windows above the second story bays. The fourth floor has two windows (see Photo # 1).

The south side of the building is unchanged with three evenly spaced windows on the first three floors and two on the fourth (see Photo # 3).

The east facade has five symmetrically placed bays on the first three floors. On each of these floors there is a central french type doorway flanked by two windows. The fourth story lacks windows but has the central doorway placed in the intersecting front gable (see Photo # 3).

(continued on separate sheet)

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CONTINUATION SHEET Brockenhoff Mill ITEM NUMBER 7 PAGE 2

The roof is tin with sheets joined along their length by a fold and a crimp. The owner has recently repaired portions of the roof with matching materials. On the southern portion of the roof there is a frame clerestory hoistway shaft. Other roof features include a front gable with door and a rear frame dormer with three windows.

All structural components eventually distribute their weight on to thick load bearing masonry walls. The brick is 24" thick on the first floor, 20" thick on the second floor, 16" thick on the third, and 12" thick on the fourth story. Iron star bolts and tie rods are found throughout the mill and make the interior timber framing an integral part of the brick structure. The brick rests on a 28" thick limestone foundation of unevenly coursed, roughly squared limestone blocks. The blocks often reach a length of two and a half feet and a height of eight to ten inches. Three heavy stone piers have been built up on the interior of the western foundation for additional strength.

All the machinery has been removed from the mill leaving large open spaces punctuated by timber support columns measuring 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 10 $\frac{1}{2}$ ". Four evenly spaced beams measuring 14 $\frac{1}{2}$ " by 12" run across the width of each floor (east and west) and provide support to 10" by 3" floor joists spaced 17" apart. Support for these beams is provided by two rows of four queen posts running north and south. These queen posts are supported by braces running to the third story beams. In several instances the braces are joined to these beams by vertical iron tension rods. Beams running the length of the fourth floor rest on top of each pair of support posts. These tie beams, in turn support additional framing (a combination of king post and slanting queen post-trusses) directly under the roof.

Many structural members throughout the building have been removed. A total of thirteen support columns have been removed from the first and second stories. Several have been moved to the basement and used as floor joists. Overall the building exhibits a very high degree of craftsmanship and care in construction. All structural members have chamfered edges. The fourth floor and attic framing is the most elaborate in the building and supplies examples of dovetail, mortise and tenon and full butt heeled joints.

The walls on each floor are plaster three-eighths inch thick over brick. With the exception of the first floor, where fibreboard has been attached to exposed floor joists, there are no ceilings. In the upper three stories the flooring appears to be original or at least contemporary with the period during which the structure was used as a mill. The first story flooring has been replaced as evidenced by the paint on the underside of the floor boards. It appears to be beaded tongue and groove siding recycled from another structure. The flooring was apparently replaced after the mill had ceased its operations as there are no openings to the basement below. It is possible that the flooring was removed in the early 1940's when the machinery was removed by the owner.

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The exterior detailing is extremely simple. All eaves are bracketed with wide scrolls. The windows are double hung vertical rectangular six-over-six's measuring 38" by 64". The window framing is simple with wide wooden lintels extending across the top of each. All east facade doorways are french type opening in. They are comprised of two, two panel doors each measuring 23½" by 80". These doorways have four paned transom lights. Unfortunately, the first floor door has been replaced with a modern one. The brick face is concave jointed common bond with a row of headers every six rows of stretchers.

The basement may be the most interesting part of the mill for it was in this area that the drive machinery operated. At the south end is a pool (now fed by a small spring) into which water flowed from the head race (see Photo #6). Two arched openings measuring approximately 6' by 5' in the south foundation wall mark the opening to the headrace. The pool is approximately 6' deep. At the eastern end of the pool is another arched opening of similar dimensions that let out to the tail race. At some point in time a pair of heavy structural I beams were installed over the pool in front of the southernmost headrace opening. These I beams are set in poured concrete piers attached to the unevenly coursed stone walls of the pool. There is a small fourth arched opening between the two headrace inlets, the function of which is unclear. Both the east and the west walls of the foundation show evidence of window sized bays that have been filled in with stone. It appears that earth was filled in around the foundation of the mill. The race openings are blocked by timbers to prevent this fill from spilling into the basement.

Early Appearance

The mill itself has apparently lost little of its original exterior appearance. Perhaps the most important change in the building was the removal of the machinery in the early 1940's by the owner. Contacted today he can recall few details about the machinery that was in place. Myriad holes and openings in the upper three floors suggest that rope or belt drives, drive shafts and shutes may have at one time been in place. A granary, constructed of oak, standing near the mill on its north side was also removed at this time (information acquired from an interview with a former owner). A 1928 deed mentions two millhouses as standing on a 3.5 acre lot with the mill and granary (Centre County Deed Book 139:101).

8 SIGNIFICANCE

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/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Brockerhoff Mill is one of only three mills in Centre County with masonry walls and one of only two brick mill buildings still standing. The area where the mill stands was a site of industry from 1795 (Linn, 1883:258) to the early twentieth century. Equally important is the mill's association with Henry Brockerhoff (1794-1878), a leading businessman during Bellefonte's commercial and industrial boom.

The area surrounding the mill was probably part of a 300 acre tract belonging to Daniel Turner. Turner built a forge, a sawmill and a gristmill in 1795 in the vicinity of what would be the upstream terminus (and possible dam site) of Brockerhoff's head race (Linn, 1883:30, 258). By 1801 Turner's enterprise had failed and the parcel was sold at sheriff's sale to Thomas Grant (Linn, 1883:30; Centre County Deed Book A:186). Grant immediately sold the property to Thomas Billington who operated the complex for several years (Centre County Assessments-Spring Twp., 1803-1822).

In 1840 Jacob Roop bought the property from a subsequent owner. Roop was a gunsmith and operated a gun factory in Spring Township during the second quarter of the nineteenth century. He had erected a brewery and clover mill in 1826 on land directly east of the present mill site (Linn, 1883:258; Centre County Assessments-Spring Twp., 1826-1831; Walling, 1861). Roop sold his property, now including Turner's gristmill and sawmill with the brewery, to Joshua and Michael Fishburn in 1844 (Centre County Deed Book O:295; Centre County Assessment-Spring Twp., 1840-1848). In 1847 the Fishburns were unable to pay their debt to Roop and about one hundred acres containing the mill complex and brewery were sold at Sherrif's Sale to Henry Brockerhoff (Centre County Sheriff's Deed Docket A:77).

Linn states that the mill was built in 1862 (1883:258). Brockerhoff was assessed for a "mill", a gristmill and a sawmill as early as 1848. Although the tax records are not consistent in noting the presence or valuation of buildings, it appears that the mill may have been built as early as 1859. Roop's brewery was put back into operation that same year (Linn, 1883:258; Centre County Assessment-Spring Twp., 1856-1860). This latter fact may point to an industrial revitalization of the property, possibly including the construction of the present mill, in 1859.

Brockerhoff sold the brewery to Louis Haas in 1872 (Centre County Deed Book H-2:288). Fifty years later the Brockerhoff family sold the property containing the dam and mill race, while retaining all rights to water and the improvement of these facilities. Linn notes that after Henry Brockerhoff's death in 1878 his

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sons continued in the milling business. At that time the mill was "furnished with four runs of stones. . .having a daily capacity of seventy barrels of flour" (1883: 258).

Henry Brockerhoff was born in Dusseldorf in 1794 of wealthy parents. He was educated in Cologne, Paris, and Aix-la-Chapelle. Young Henry was then sent to the University of Leipsic until 1813, when he joined Napoleon's army and became an under-secretary. After Napoleon's banishment in 1815, Brockerhoff sailed for Australia; however, his ship was wrecked and the passengers were transferred to an American ship. He eventually came to Bellefonte through Philadelphia in 1825. In 1840 he bought the Pennsylvania Hotel in Bellefonte and in 1847 the mill and brewery complex near Roopsburg (Linn, 1883:247,258). His mansion, built by Patrick Cambridge in 1833, was one of Bellefonte's principal landmarks prior to its being razed in 1961. Today, in Bellefonte, the name of Brockerhoff conjures a romantic image of the prosperity and elegance of an earlier time.

The decade in which the mill was built was one of great prosperity for Bellefonte and the surrounding area. The sharp increase in the demand for iron combined with the completion of a rail link to the main Philadelphia-to-Pittsburgh line led to renewed building and a near doubling of the population (Lewis, 1972:341). Later in this decade some of Bellefonte's finest buildings and homes would be erected. When the Pennsylvania Hotel burned in 1864 Brockerhoff built a substantial brick hotel building. This building survives as a key Bellefonte landmark, the Brockerhoff Hotel (National Register April 11, 1977).

Local historian J. Marvin Lee reported (Conklin, 1975) that he had identified at least 34 mill sites in Centre County. He observed that only about one half dozen of these had even a portion of structure remaining. Centre Mills in Brush Valley (National Register Site 1977) is a stone structure dating from the early nineteenth century. It is similar to the Brockerhoff Mill in some of the features of its heavy timber framing. The brick Gamble mill in Bellefonte (also a National Register Site 1975) most closely resembles the Brockerhoff Mill. The builders of both these latter mills made use of iron star bolt tension rods, timber capitals above support posts, large (8" by 14" to 12" by 14") structural members with chamfered edges, clerestory hoistway and queen post roof trusses.

The Brockerhoff Mill with its association with Henry Brockerhoff and Bellefonte's Civil War prosperity, is an important physical example of the interplay of geographic, historic, and economic factors that have molded the architectural nature of Bellefonte and its environs.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Conklin, Ted, 1975 "The Gamble Mill," P.I.H.P. application.
 Lewis, Pierce F. 1972, "A small town in Pa.", In Annals of the Association of American Geographers 62 (2):323-351.
 Linn, John, 1883, History of Centre & Clinton Counties, Louis Everts, Phila.
 Walling, H. F., 1861, Topographic Map of Centre County. S. D. Tilden, N.Y.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.8

QUADRANGLE NAME Bellefonte QUADRANGLE SCALE 1:24,000

UTM REFERENCES

A	18	264200	4513,1260	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
E				F			
G				H			

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
Peter C. Stockman & Gregory Ramsey

ORGANIZATION
Historic Registration Project

STREET & NUMBER
203 N. Allegheny Street

CITY OR TOWN
Bellefonte

DATE

TELEPHONE
814-355-3249

STATE
Pennsylvania

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 [Signature]

TITLE ED WEINTRAUB, Director DATE

Office of Historic Preservation

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DATE

ATTEST: KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER DATE

CHIEF OF REGISTRATION

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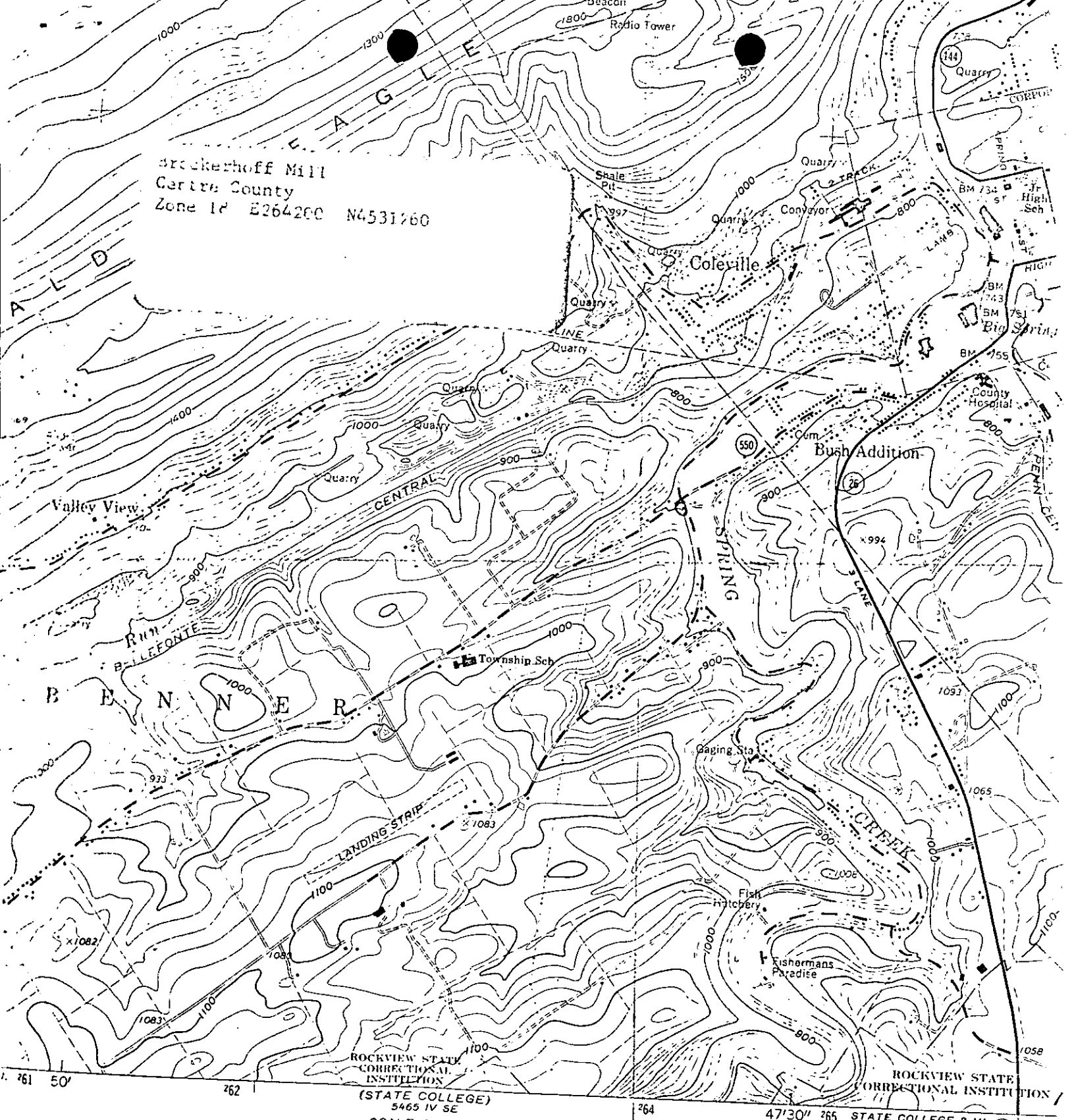
CONTINUATION SHEET Brockerhoff Mill ITEM NUMBER 9 PAGE 2

Linn, John B.

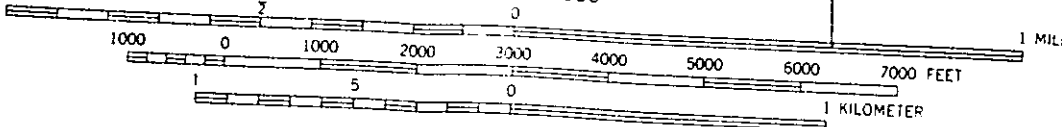
1883 History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia.

Walling, H. F.

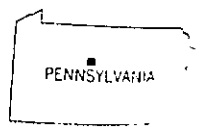
1861 Topographic Map of Centre County. S. D. Tilden, New York.



SCALE 1:24000



CONTOUR INTERVAL 20 FEET
DATUM IS MEAN SEA LEVEL



THIS MAP COMPLIES WITH NATIONAL MAP ACCURACY STANDARDS
FOR SALE BY U. S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, WASHINGTON, D. C. 20242
A FOLDER DESCRIBING TOPOGRAPHIC MAPS AND SYMBOLS IS AVAILABLE