

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 Centre Mills

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Star Route (Swanton Road)

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

CITY, TOWN

Rebersburg

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

CODE
42

COUNTY

Centre

CODE

027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input 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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> SITE	PUBLIC ACQUISITION	ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER:
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Robert S. and Teresa S. High

STREET & NUMBER
404 Homer Avenue

CITY, TOWN

State College

VICINITY OF

STATE

Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC
Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER
High Street

CITY, TOWN

Belleville

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 _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The stone mill, built in 1802 or 1803, for Tobias Pickle, sits on a hillside less than 100 yards north of Elk Creek. It has a large basement area with the mill-race passing through arched openings in its southern end. The miller of these arches (for the tail-race) remains on the western side of the building. The other arch, which rose to nearly 10 feet, had begun to collapse some years ago and is supported by timbers.

Above this basement level (or ground floor), there are two full stories and an attic story. The building is covered with a tin roof and a chimney climbs an interior wall at the northeast corner. Exterior measurements are 44' 10" along shorter sides (north and south) and 58' along longer sides, which face the races. The foundation walls are 18" thick, and this tapers to about 15" at the attic story. There appears to have been a date-stone beneath the northern gable, but it has either been replaced or is no longer legible.

The walls are composed of field-stone which has been roughly coursed. Corners have been quoined with large field-stones (some standing with breadth against the wall, others lying flat). These quoining stones are often as great as over 3' in length, 1' in width, and 4" or 5" in thickness. Excepting the collapsed arch on the eastern side, some displacement above the arch on the western side, and a crack in the wall above the first story on the southern side, the walls are in sound condition.

Door and window frames are molded and pegged.

Upon entering the ground floor, one notices that the superstructure that held the breastwheels has been preserved. At the southern end of the space are stone piers 23" thick flanking the race and supporting sixteen 11" x 12" posts, approximately 14' in height. These are connected across the raceway by horizontal beams (mortice and tenon joints) and strengthened by 4" x 6" diagonal members. The breastwheels themselves are no longer in place (having been replaced by a turbine toward the end of the mill's active years, or circa 1900) and water no longer rushes through the race.

The basement has a partial raised, or platform, floor over the natural earth floor. Several gears (some of very early workmanship) lie about.

Above the floor joists run parallel with the race. These are original and possess a slight flush bead on their undersides. Two massive beams run perpendicular to these in support.

Upon entering the first floor, the miller's floor, from a door in the center of the northern wall, one finds a small lath and plaster office in the left corner. The remainder of the floor is not partitioned. Walls are plastered. Two large beams are seen to run the length of the structure, supporting floor joists above. There are five vertical posts to assist in the support of these beams. Beyond the office, against the eastern wall of

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the mill, is a simple stairway. The mill stones have been removed, but otherwise this area (and the rest of the mill) retains a functional appearance.

The second floor is similar to the first with the exception being lower. Ceiling beams are supported by four chamfered posts.

The attic story possesses a large wooden pulley which hangs from the rafters in its wooden frame. A door, for the receiving of grain, opens through the northern end.

The structures, the barn and the house, stand along a paved road north of the mill and to the east.

The barn had deteriorated over the years, and the present owner is having it rebuilt-reduced in size, but employing the older materials thus retaining a rustic appearance.

The house is a two-story stone house with frame additions to the east. Originally the front of the house faced the creek, and the original road-bed can still be seen on this side. This side of the house has a five-bay facade and an exposed basement. After 1900 the road was switched to the other side of the house. This side is divided into three bays.

The house is constructed of roughly-cut and roughly-coursed field stone with ends less carefully laid up. It measures approximately 40' in length and 30' in depth. The walls are in sound condition though in need of repainting. Window frames are milled and pegged and appear quite similar to those at the mill. An oval date-stone under the eastern gable has either been replaced or is no longer legible.

Looking at the present front of the house, one sees a two-story frame addition of approximately 22' in length, set back 10' from the facade of the stone house. This addition contains a cook fireplace at its eastern end. Beyond this, set closer to the road, is a frame shed, about 32' in length.

There is a porch supported on Corinthian columns linking this northern side of the stone house, the frame addition, and shed. All these components have tin rooves.

On the southern side of the house (the original front), the stone facade and frame addition are flush and a porch runs along the first story. The western end on this porch has been closed with a sunporch within the last 10 years.

The basement under the stone house and frame addition is divided into three compartments (two under the stone house), with the floor above supported on logs (planed on two sides) about 3' on center.

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The interior finishing of the stone house is without elaboration. The staircase is open string with square balusters and with stair ends possessing a simple, recessed double-oval pattern. The room to the left of the main entrance (south side of the house) has the rather unusual feature of a corner fireplace. The house, as a whole, is a typical example of basic country workmanship.

The final element of the Centre Mills site is a miller's house. This sits on a slope a few hundred feet east of the stone mill, alongside the old roadbed. It has a stone foundation with a stable taking up the ground floor. The structure above is frame and rooms are arranged to create a double house. This building, built apparently in the late nineteenth century, is in bad condition. It was merely a functional building from the start and lacks any elaboration.

The dam at Centre Mills was washed away circa 1900 and the mill operated, until its closing, on steam power.

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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
	<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			Exploration/Settlement

SPECIFIC DATES prior to 1793, log 1802 or 1803, then mill BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Centre Mills site is an important landmark of the pioneer era of our County's history and is the prominent site for the settlement of Brush Valley. The great masonry walls of the mill and massive timber work inside bear testimony to the enthusiasm and enterprise of the early settlers.

Cramel Mills possessed most of the warrants for the Brush Valley region and had it surveyed in 1773 and 1774. It is probable that the years 1791-92 marked the first significant settlement, and in 1798, a considerable number of deeds were made out.

The Old Mill was purchased by Tobias Fickle about 1801, and in 1802 or 1803, Fickle had Col. Meyer erect the present large stone mill. The stone house no doubt, was built at the same time, and in later years, it is said, could provide accommodations to farmers who had come some distance to have their grain milled.

The Centre Mills site provides an opportunity for us to be transported to the early settlement of our county. One can easily imagine the difficulty of introducing agriculture to the wilderness of Eighteenth Century Brush Valley. At Centre Mills we see both the introduction of milling in the Valley and the development of this industry. The character of the Valley has changed since those days, with great expanses of land cleared for farming. The Centre Mills site furnishes an impressive record of Brush Valley as a frontier.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Linn, John Blair. The History of Centre and Clinton Counties. Philadelphia
Louis H. Everts, 1893.

Letters from Mary Abbott (granddaughter of Col. Henry Meyer) to Teresa Kish
Summer 1975.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 9.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A | 1 | 8 | | 2 | 9 | 1 | 8 | 2 | 0 | | 4 | 5 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 3 | 0 |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 C | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

B | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING
 D | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |

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

Gregory Ramsey, Coordinator

ORGANIZATION

Centre County Library, Historic Site Registration Project

DATE

July 9, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

203 North Allegheny Street

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Bellefonte

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



TITLE

Executive Director
Pa. Historical & Museum Commission

DATE

7/21/76

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

