

FOR NPS USE ONLY  
RECEIVED  
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

Durham Mill

AND/OR COMMON

## 2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

Durham Road

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Durham

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

8

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

CODE  
42

COUNTY  
Bucks

CODE  
017

## 3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<b>PUBLIC ACQUISITION</b>	<b>ACCESSIBLE</b>	<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 type="checkbox"/> PARK
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

## 4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

County of Bucks

STREET & NUMBER

Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Doylestown

STATE

Pennsylvania

VICINITY OF

## 5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,  
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC

Recorder of Deeds

STREET & NUMBER

Bucks County Administration Building

CITY, TOWN

Doylestown

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

Inventory of Historic Sites

DATE

1970

Regional

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR  
SURVEY RECORDS

Delaware Valley Regional Planning Commission

CITY, TOWN

Philadelphia

STATE

Pennsylvania

## 7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 Durham Mill is typical of the early nineteenth century, grist mills in the eastern part of Pennsylvania. The three-story stone building originally was laid out generally following the precepts of Oliver Evan's "Guide for Young Mill Wrights".

The overshot wheel was located inside the structure with the hub at the level of the first floor. The rear of the first floor was devoted to the gear train for the stones, elevators and miscellaneous equipment.

The stones were set on the second floor, and it was usual for there to be separate set for wheat and corn. Bolters and other large processing equipment were also found on the second floor.

The third floor housed the hoisting equipment and some of the middle processing machinery. The introduction of rolling mills and other modern machinery did not change this basic layout.

In the late 1800's or early Twentieth Century several additions were added to the basic structure. The principle addition is large, brick, gambrel roofed home that more than doubled the size of the operation. This addition reflects the change from custom or batch millings to flour and feed production on a commercial scale.

# 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"/> 00-1499	<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 type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES 1727, 1820

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

## STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The original mill building was built in 1820 on the foundation walls of the historic Durham Furnace. The furnace, or iron works, dating from 1727, produced pig and bar iron as well as cast iron pans, utensils and stove plates for nearly 70 years.

One of the first managers of the furnace was Colonel George Taylor, a signer of the Declaration of Independence. During his time there the furnace produced cannons, cannon balls & shot, and other military equipment for the colonial troops. Ironically, a loyalist named Joseph Galloway actually owned the furnace then.

Also associated with the war were the Durham boats designed for river commerce by Robert Durham. General Washington used 40 of them in his historic crossing of the Delaware. Another Revolutionary War figure associated with the area was General Daniel Morgan, a native of Durham and an employee at the furnace at the age of 16.

It was believed that the "great chain" that was stretched across the Hudson River at West Point during the war was forged at Durham. Most of the evidence, however, reveals that while the iron for the chain may have come from Durham, the actual forging took place near New York.

Rubin Knecht Bachman, a U.S. Representative during the Hayes administration, owned the mill in the late 1800's and early 1900's. The outstanding addition over these years was the brick warehouse with gambrel roof built in 1912. The bricks used in its construction came from the ruins of a second Durham Furnace, located a few miles away, which flourished in the 1800's. At the same time the warehouse was built, a post office was also added which is still in use.

The mill, always operated with an overshot waterwheel, drew its water from Cook's Creek by way of a 3/4 mile long raceway. The present steel wheel, 8 feet wide and 18 feet in diameter, replaced the original wooden one in 1932.

The mill was in continuous operation until 1967, producing primarily livestock feed in its later years. Now owned by the County of Bucks and administered by the Department of Parks and Recreation, the mill is undergoing exterior restoration. Future plans call for the interior to be restored and for the mill to be put into actual operation again as a "living history museum". The building is open to the public May through October.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Bucks, William J. History of Bucks County, John S. Down, Doylestown, 1855.

Potter, Jack C. Delaware Valley Grist Mills, The Bucks County Realtor, Vol. XI, No. 1, 1962.

Laubach, Charles. Durham Iron Works, Bucks County Historical Society, Library Folio 15

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 3.5 acres

UTM REFERENCES

A	<u>18</u>	<u>481030</u>	<u>4491540</u>	B			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING
C				D			
	ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING		ZONE	EASTING	NORTHING

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

Charles J. Yeske, Manager / Vance Packard, Curator

ORGANIZATION

Bucks Co. Dept. of Parks & Recreation / OHP/PHMC

DATE

June 25, 1976

STREET & NUMBER

Core Creek Park / Box 1026

TELEPHONE

717-787-4363

CITY OR TOWN

Lanahome / Harrisburg

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

TITLE

Executive Director  
Pa. Historical and Museum Commission

DATE

8/9/76

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

4496000m N  
HELLERTOWN (UNC. PA #12) 5.9 MI  
LOWER SAUCON 2 MI

4494  
470 000 FEET  
(PA.)

4493

35'

4492

91

(HELLERTOWN)

**DURHAM MILL**

Bucks County  
Zone 18

481 030

44

