

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

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National Register of Historic Places
Registration Form

HISTORIC PRESERVATION

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations of eligibility for individual properties or districts. See instructions in *Guidelines for Completing National Register Forms* (National Register Bulletin 16). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the requested information. If an item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, styles, materials, and areas of significance, enter only the categories and subcategories listed in the instructions. For additional space use continuation sheets (Form 10-900a). Type all entries.

1. Name of Property

historic name Bowmansville Roller Mill
other names/site number Von Neida Mill

2. Location

street & number Rt. 625 at SE corner of Von Neida Street N/A not for publication
city, town Brecknock Township N/A vicinity
state PA code 042 county Lancaster code 071 zip code 17507

3. Classification

Ownership of Property	Category of Property	Number of Resources within Property	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	Contributing	Noncontributing
<input type="checkbox"/> public-local	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<u>2</u>	<u>0</u> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> public-State	<input type="checkbox"/> site	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> public-Federal	<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u> structures
	<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u> objects
		<u>3</u>	<u>0</u> Total

Name of related multiple property listing: N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register 0

4. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended, I hereby certify that this nomination request for determination of eligibility meets the documentation standards for registering properties in the National Register of Historic Places and meets the procedural and professional requirements set forth in 36 CFR Part 60. In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of certifying official Brent Glass, Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria. See continuation sheet.

Signature of commenting or other official _____ Date _____
State or Federal agency and bureau _____

5. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

entered in the National Register.
 See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register. See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:) _____

Signature of the Keeper _____ Date of Action _____

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Current Functions (enter categories from instructions)

Industry/Processing/Manufacturing facility

NOT IN USE

7. Description

Architectural Classification

Materials (enter categories from instructions)

(enter categories from instructions)

Other: Grist and Saw Mill Buildings

foundation Stone

walls Stone

roof Wood

other Wood

Describe present and historic physical appearance.

The Bowmansville Roller Mill is located at the southeast corner of Route 625 and Von Neida Street in Brecknock Township, Lancaster County. The area around the district consists of rolling farm land with scattered farmhouses and outbuildings. Not far from the eastern boundary of the district is the Pennsylvania Turnpike, while the western boundary of the district borders on Pennsylvania Route 625. The nominated property includes a roller mill, a saw mill, and a headrace and a tailrace. The grist/roller mill is three and one-half stories in height, rectangular in shape measuring 45' wide and 50'5" long, and was constructed of brownstone in 1850. The saw mill is two stories in height, rectangular in shape measuring 50'3" long and 16'10" wide, and was constructed of brownstone and wood in c. 1860. To the east of the buildings is the headrace. To the west of the buildings is the tailrace which runs under Route 625. The .4 acre nominated historic district includes two contributing buildings and one contributing structure. The district is currently in good condition and retains a high degree of integrity. The nominated property contains two categories of resources (buildings and structure) and therefore classifies as a historic district.

The 1850, rectangular shaped, three and one-half story brownstone grist/roller mill is three bays wide and four bays long. The gabled roof is covered with hand split wood shingles and has a small brick chimney at the north end. All the windows are six over six double hung sash with wooden reeded frames and plain wooden sills. All the doors are recessed, four paneled Dutch doors with reeded framing. Each corner of the building has brownstone quoining. The north and south elevations have three door openings, one each, located in the central bay on the second, third and fourth level. On the south elevation, a small, one-pane, square window is located above the highest door and two round arch openings are located on the basement level on either side of the central bay. On the north elevation, a hoist with gable roof overhang is located above the highest door, and a door opening is located just east of the first bay on the first floor. The west elevation has a door opening on the first level between

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the first and second bay to the north. The east elevation is built into a bank with only two levels exposed above ground. A door opening is located on the first exposed level, in the first bay to the south. Originally, there was also a door opening on the first exposed level, in the fourth bay. This door opening, as well as shed roof overhangs over the first and second bay and the fourth bay on the first exposed level, were removed in the mid-20th century. The reason for the removal is unknown. The overall integrity of the building is not greatly effected by the removal of these elements. Above the second bay of the eastern elevation, a square boxed hoist extends from the roof.

Work on the exterior of the grist/roller mill took place in 1969 and included the repointing of the mortar to duplicate the existing mortar in color, composition and profile and the reshingling of the roof.

The interior of the grist/roller mill is divided into a basement or first floor, second floor, third floor, and fourth floor. The basement contains the tandem over-shot water wheels, an adjoining space which houses gearing for the mill and a package room. The 1850 waterwheels were both built by the Fitz Company of Hanover, Pennsylvania. Each wheel measures five feet by thirteen feet, and has forty buckets to the wheel. I-beams were added to the wheel well sometime in the 20th century for additional structural support. The waterwheels are presently undergoing restoration with the damaged parts being replaced with like parts. The adjoining space, which houses the mill gearing, drops down about five feet beyond floor level to house the drives. The drive to the east accommodates the gradual reduction roller mills on the second floor while the drive to the west accommodates the mill stones on the second floor. To the north is a room used to package the finished products. The package space has a mortise and tenon oak framing in good condition. A wooden ramp for wheeling sacks of flour or meal leads to the door on the west elevation. There are several elevator boots

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associated with the roller plant which are in good condition. There are two flour bins on the first floor serving the two mill stones on the second floor. These bins are complete with measures for bagging. Above the east bin is a simple sifting apparatus to screen the meal. The west bin has a worn conveyor above it which divides into four spouts for bagging meal.

The second floor contains the miller's office, various bins for storing finished products, a c. 1895 two stand gradual reduction roller mill and two sets of mill stones. The 1850 miller's office has simple vertical board framing on the interior walls and an iron stove with stove pipe that leads to the chimney on the roof. The two sets of 1850 mill stones are set in a twelve inch depression or lower level of the floor. This appears to be an unusual setting as most millstones are set slightly above or exactly at floor level. One set of stones has a French burr bedstone and a local stone, and was probably used for milling cornmeal or animal feeds. The other set of stones are both French burr stones and were probably used for grinding corn or wheat. Assembled over the set of French burr stones is a wooden millstone crane complete with iron calipers. The crane is in good working condition. Close to the millstones and occupying a position formerly used by a third pair of millstones is a c. 1900 corn shelling machine. Also on this floor is a c. 1895 two stand gradual reduction roller mill. These roller mills were made by the Case Manufacturing Company and known as "The Case Automatic Feed". Each mill had two sets of rollers varying from course to smooth to pulverize the wheat and mill it into flour. Close to the roller machines are two flour chests in good condition.

The third floor contains the 1850 miller's bedroom, two c. 1895 sifting machines and a number of storage bins for corn and wheat. The miller's bedroom has simple vertical board framing on the interior walls and was used by the millwright during the busy milling season. Also, on this floor is "The Gyrator" or swing

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sifting machine built by the Wolf Company of Chambersburg, Pennsylvania, c. 1895. This machine would gyrate to sift the flour through ten trays of varying size silk screens. Next to this machine is "The Case Inter-Elevator Flour Dresser" built by the Case Manufacturing Company, Columbus, Ohio, c. 1895. This machine, with centrifugal wheel, would sift the flour from the inside out by turning a large cylinder covered with a silk screen. These sifting machines were used in cooperation with the roller mills. Above the two sifting machines is a speed indicator, made by the Wolf Company, which registered speed between 30-120 r.p.m. This indicator was probably used by the miller to regulate the speed of the sifting machines.

The fourth floor contains grain cleaning machinery, grain hoisting equipment and grain storage bins and scales. An Eureka Grain Cleaner, better known as an Eureka Smut and Separating Machine, manufactured by Howes, Babcock & Co., c. 1890, was used in cooperation with the roller mills to clean wheat. Next to this machine is the c. 1895 "Case Special Middlings Purifier" made by the Case Manufacturing Company to clean grain. Also on this floor is a sack hoist to bring grain from the ground level, several storage bins and a set of scales for checking the weight of incoming materials.

All the walls in the grist/roller mill are white-washed except for one wall on the basement level which is rough stone. All the floors are wooden planks. Grain elevators connect all the milling operations from the basement to the fourth floor. A simple wooden stair situated approximately in the middle of each floor leads to the story above. On the second story, a small wooden stair in the southwest corner leads down to the tandem over-shot waterwheels. The machinery from the 1850 grist mill and the machinery from the c. 1895 roller mill is fully intact and is in potentially operable condition. Work to clean, preserve and operate the machinery is currently underway. The present owners of the mill have hired millwright Derek Ogden to

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disassemble the machinery, to clean and lubricate the machinery and to reassemble the machinery so that it may be used.

Located ten feet from the southeast corner of the grist/roller mill is the two story brownstone and frame saw mill. This metal standing seamed, gabled roof structure with exposed rafters under the eaves was constructed c. 1860. The west and east elevations have a large rectangular opening on the second story and an opening the width of the structure on the first or foundation level. The south elevation has three irregularly placed openings in the foundation level. Three small, six-pane windows are located to the west and a large opening, the shape of half an octagon, is located on the second story of the south elevation. The north elevation has a sliding double door to the east and three small, six-pane windows to the west on the second story. A large rectangular opening is located below the middle window on the foundation level. All the corners of the stone foundation are quoined. A wooden plank floor separates the foundation and second floor levels. A new metal roof, replacing an existing metal roof, was added in 1969. The foundation was repointed in 1969 to match the existing mortar in color, composition and profile. An early 20th century photograph of the saw mill, specific date unknown, shows the building at one time had a slightly steeper pitched roof and a slightly wider rectangular opening on the second story of the west elevation. It is believed that during the conversion of the mill from an up and down saw mill to a circular saw mill, c. 1920, the present roofline and opening change occurred.

The equipment inside this circular saw mill includes an overshot waterwheel constructed by the Fitz Company, Hanover, Pennsylvania, a large wooden driving pulley and gearing for the mill. The waterwheel, measuring 13' diameter x 5'9" wide is presently undergoing restoration with the replacement of damaged parts with like parts. Unfortunately, the original up and down saw and the later circular saw as well as the cradles for logs

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are no longer existing. Work to clean, preserve and operate the saw mill machinery is currently underway by millwright Derek Ogden.

To the east of the buildings is the headrace, and to the west is the tailrace. Originally the headrace was approximately one mile long, three to six feet wide, hand dug, constructed of dirt and stone, and was fed by a four foot high mill dam. The most visibly intact section of the head race is within the nominated area. The flume close to the mill was constructed originally of wood, and rebuilt, c. 1930, of concrete. The flume is currently in poor condition, and retains modest integrity. The tailrace presently exits the mill and runs under Route 624. Originally two hundred feet long, approximately twenty-five feet of the tailrace is included in the nomination. The tailrace was hand dug, constructed of dirt and is several feet wide. This race is in fair condition and retains modest integrity.

8. Statement of Significance

Certifying official has considered the significance of this property in relation to other properties:

nationally statewide locally

Applicable National Register Criteria A B C D

Criteria Considerations (Exceptions) A B C D E F G

Areas of Significance (enter categories from instructions)

Engineering
Industry

Period of Significance

1850-1935

Significant Dates

1850
c. 1860

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Significant Person

N/A

Architect/Builder

Von Neida, Henry/Builder

State significance of property, and justify criteria, criteria considerations, and areas and periods of significance noted above.

The Bowmansville Roller Mill is significant in the areas of industry and engineering. In the area of industry, the mill played an important role in the local economy of Brecknock Township. The mill served a large number of area farmers, and today, stands as the last remaining example of the combination grist mill/saw mills that once served Brecknock Township. In the area of engineering, the mill is significant because it is the only known mill in the area to have both grind stone and roller mill machinery survive intact.

The first grist mill on this site was constructed of log c. 1740. The mill was operated by the Good family from c. 1740 to c. 1846 and rebuilt at least one time during this period. In c. 1846, Henry Von Neida purchased the log mill and property, and in 1850 built the present stone grist mill. In c. 1860, he constructed the present stone and frame saw mill. Henry operated the mills until his death in 1883. John Adam Von Neida (1860-1912), Henry's son, succeeded his father in business, operating the mills until his death in the grist mill in 1912. Henry Franklin Von Neida (1884-1970), John Adam's son, operated the mills from 1912 until c. 1945 when both the grist and saw mill operations ceased due to the dwindling need for their operations. Since that time, the mills have remained idle. Presently, both the buildings and the machinery in the buildings are undergoing preservation work.

In considering the industrial significance of the Bowmansville Roller Mill, it is important to define the role of mills in Lancaster County of the 1700's and 1800's. Due to its geographic location and numerous streams, Lancaster County was important as a milling center for much of southeastern and

See continuation sheet

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south-central Pennsylvania. Particularly important were the mills located along main roads, most of these engaged in trade of flour and other products. Situated along a prominent north/south road in eastern Lancaster County, the Bowmansville Roller Mill was prosperous in the local economy.

The Bowmansville Roller Mill is important in the area of industry for its role in the local economy of Brecknock Township and as the last remaining example of the combination grist mill/saw mills that once served the township. According to the Atlases of Lancaster County 1864 and 1875, the mill was the only grist mill/saw mill in the southeast section of the township. The mill serviced the needs of most of the farmers from this area of the township. The present grist mill served as both a feed mill and a flour mill from its construction in 1850 until c. 1945. The saw mill serviced the needs of local farmers from c. 1860 to c. 1945. At one point in the 19th century, the township boasted sixteen mills. Today, only five mills survive, most in poor condition. Of the five extant mills identified in Brecknock Township during the Survey of Lancaster County 1978-1985, conducted by the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, the Bowmansville Roller Mill is the only remaining example of a combination grist mill/saw mill and the best maintained and preserved example of a mill complex in Brecknock Township. Other former combination mills in Brecknock Township, including the Ephraim Shober Mill, the Philip Von Neida Mill (Adamstown Roller Mill), Oberholtzer's Mill and Good's Mill, no longer have their associated saw mill. And, all of these other mills have either been highly altered or allowed to deteriorate, and therefore, no longer possess a high degree of integrity.

In the area of engineering, the Bowmansville Roller Mill is significant because it is the only known mill in Brecknock Township to have all its milling machinery, both as a grind stone mill and as a roller mill, survive intact. The only other mill in Brecknock Township that possesses milling equipment is Good's Mill located on Route 897. This mill, however, has been a modernized commercial mill for a number of years and is not believed to possess any of its original milling equipment.

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The Bowmansville Roller Mill is significant in possessing nearly one hundred percent of the original grind stone and roller mill equipment, intact. Located on the second floor of the mill are two sets of early French burr and local stones used for grinding. Also on the second, as well as the third and fourth floors, the c. 1895 roller mill machinery survives. All the equipment is in good condition and is currently being cleaned and preserved.

Also located within the mill are various grain elevators, storage bins, gears and the tandem over-shot water wheels. All are in good condition and in the process of being preserved.

In conclusion, the Bowmansville Roller Mill is significant for its role in the local economy of Brecknock Township, as the last surviving example of the combination grist mill/saw mills that once served the township and as the only known mill in the area to have both its grind stone and its roller mill machinery intact.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

Previous documentation on file (NPS):

- preliminary determination of individual listing (36 CFR 67) has been requested
- previously listed in the National Register
- previously determined eligible by the National Register
- designated a National Historic Landmark
- recorded by Historic American Buildings Survey # _____
- recorded by Historic American Engineering Record # _____

See continuation sheet

Primary location of additional data:

- State historic preservation office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Specify repository: _____

10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of property 0.4 acres

UTM References

A

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4	4	4	9	1	0	0
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Zone Easting Northing

B

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Zone Easting Northing

C

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D

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

Boundary Justification

See Continuation Sheet

See continuation sheet

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Wiley Myers, Executive Director

organization Historic Pres. Trust of Lanc. Co. date August; December 1987

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

city or town Lancaster state Pennsylvania zip code 17603

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Atlases of Lancaster County, 1864; 1875; 1899.

Barton, R. Harold, "The Mills of Lancaster County", unpublished manuscript at the Lancaster County Historical Society, c. 1966, Book #1, #1-#16.

Bowmansville, PA: 150th Anniversary 1820-1970. 1970. pp 5-8; 34.

Ellis, Franklin and Evans, Samuel, History of Lancaster County, Philadelphia: Everts and Peck, published 1883. pp. 676-677.

Files of the Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, at HPT of LC, 123 North Prince Street, Lancaster, PA 17603.

Interview with Derek Ogden, millwright, February 5, 1987 at the Bowmansville Roller Mill.

Landis, Ira D., editor "Old Mills of Lancaster County", Community Historians Annual, Vol. 3, #6, December 1964.

Ogden, Derek, "Von Neida Mill of Bowmansville Roller Mill, Bowmansville, PA: Preliminary Site Inspection". April 1979. (Copy available at Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County, 123 N. Prince St., Lancaster.)

Paes, Chester, "Bowmansville Mill, Brecknock Township, Mode Creek, Built 1850", unpublished paper at the Lancaster County Historical Society, c. 1960.

Spotts, Charles D., "The People of Bowmansville", Community Historians Annual, Vol. 9, #4, July 1970, pp. 4-5.

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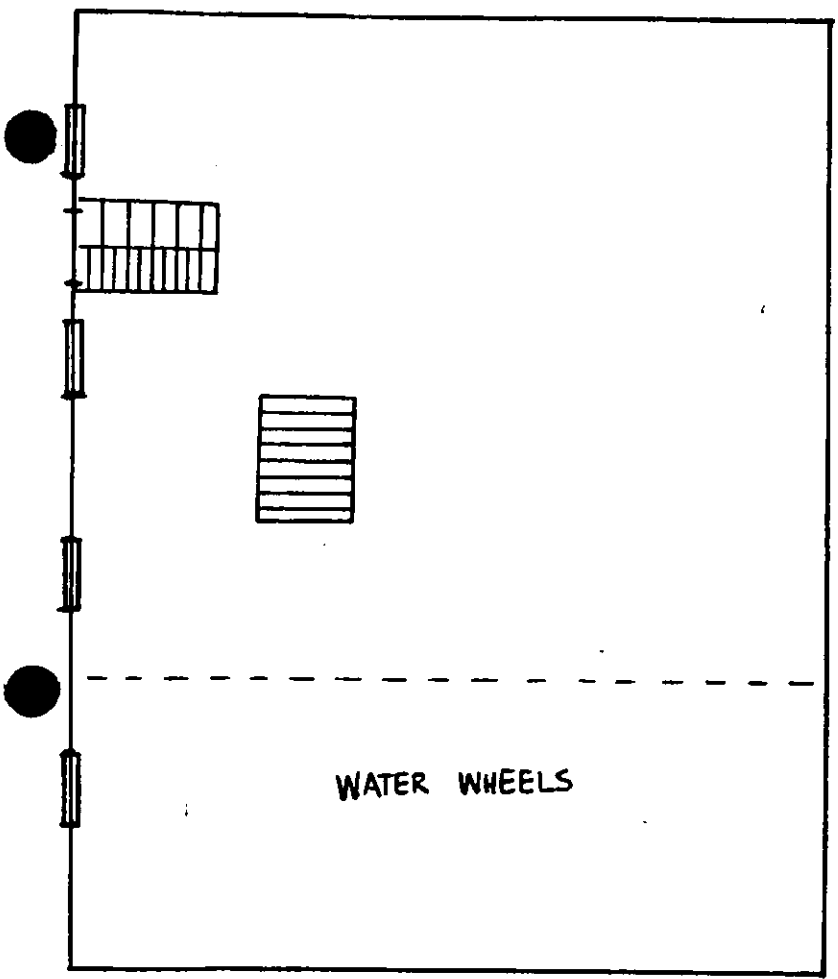
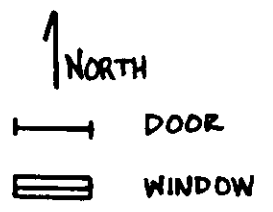
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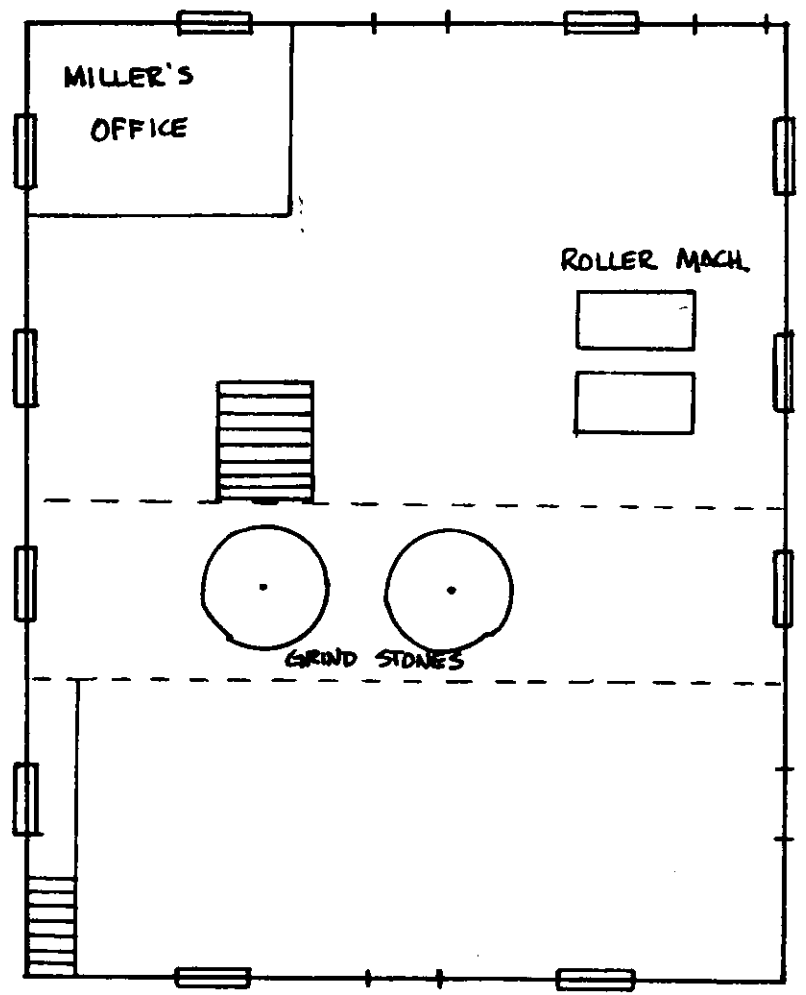
Commencing at a point on the southeast corner of Route 625 and Von Neida Street, proceeding southeast 125 feet along the east side of Route 625, east 150 feet, northwest 86 feet, west 171 feet on the south side of Von Neida Street until reaching the point of origin.

The boundaries of the nominated property have been determined to include the most visibly intact sections of the head race and tail race adjacent to the mill. Just outside the eastern boundary, the head race is overgrown and silted in. If a lining in this part of the race formerly existed, there is no evidence of it existing today. Not far from the eastern boundary, the Pennsylvania Turnpike divides the race into two sections. The western boundary borders on Pennsylvania Route 625. The northern boundary borders on Von Neida Street. The southern boundary was determined to include the meadow just south of the district. This boundary excludes vacant land that does not contribute to the significance of the district.

BOWMANSVILLE ROLLER MILL
LANCASTER COUNTY PA

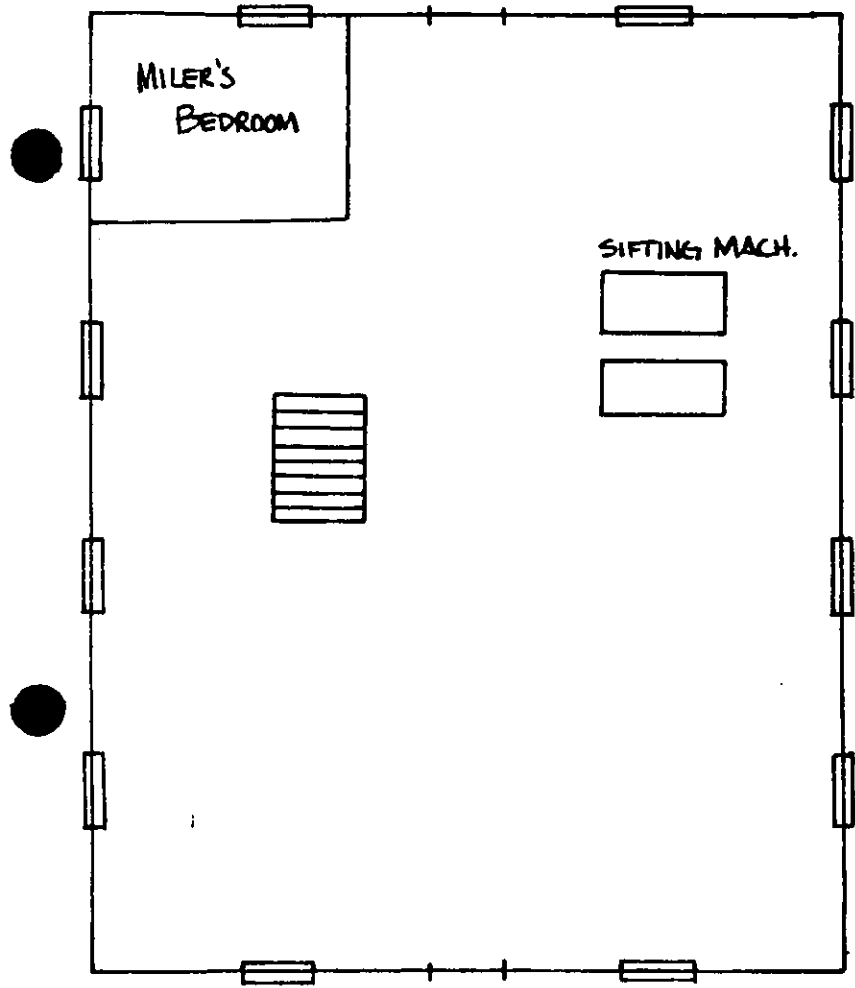
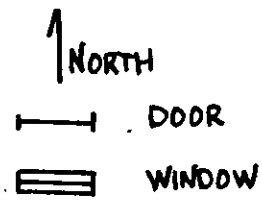


FIRST FLOOR

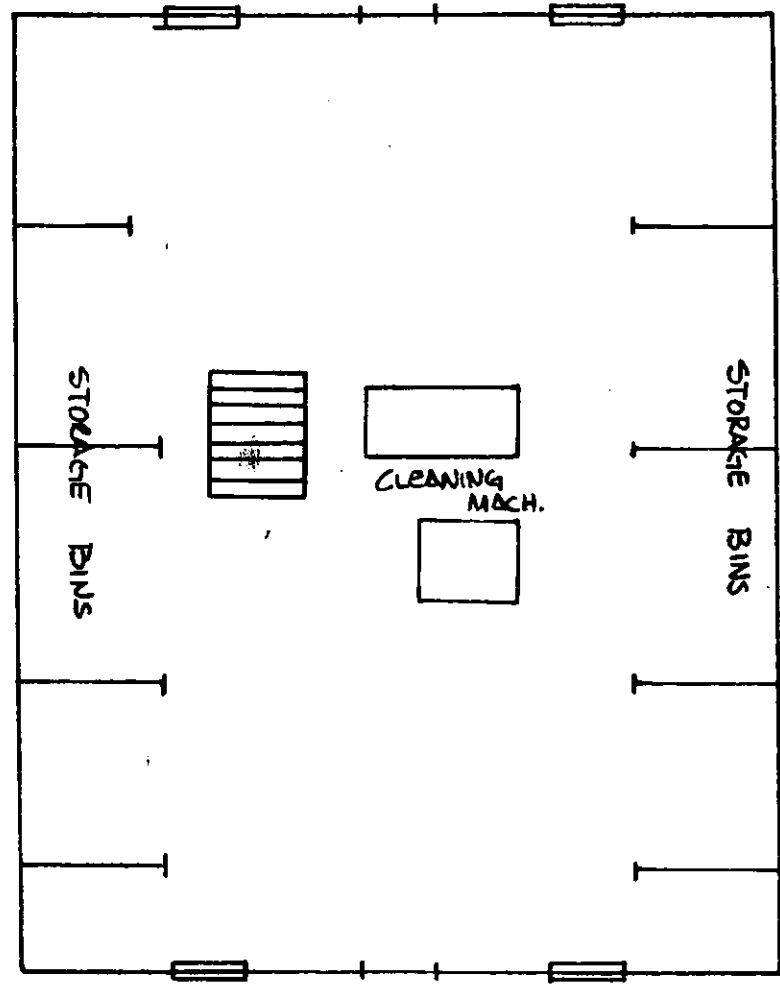


SECOND FLOOR

BOWMANVILLE ROLLER MILL
LANCASTER COUNTY PA

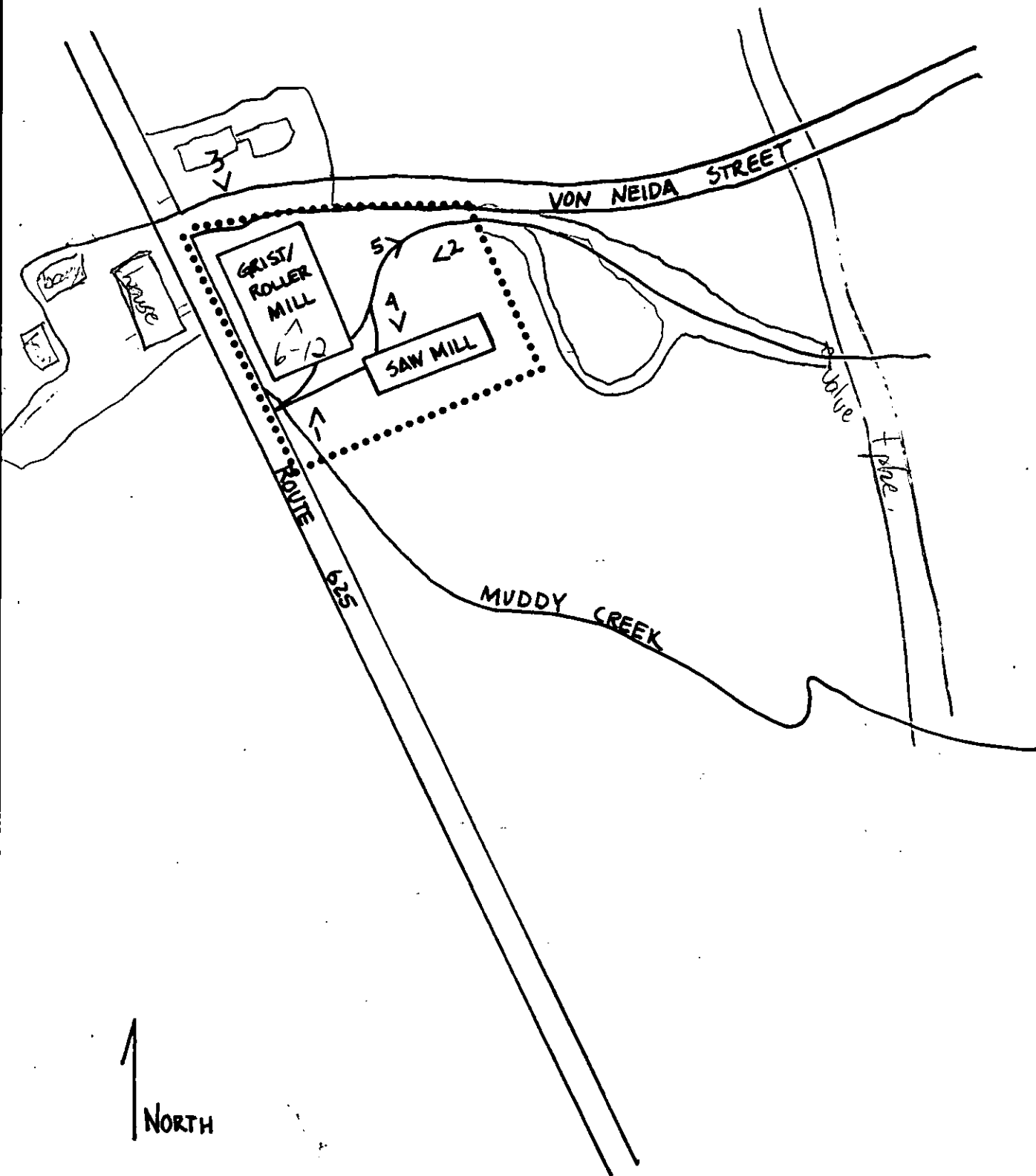


THIRD FLOOR

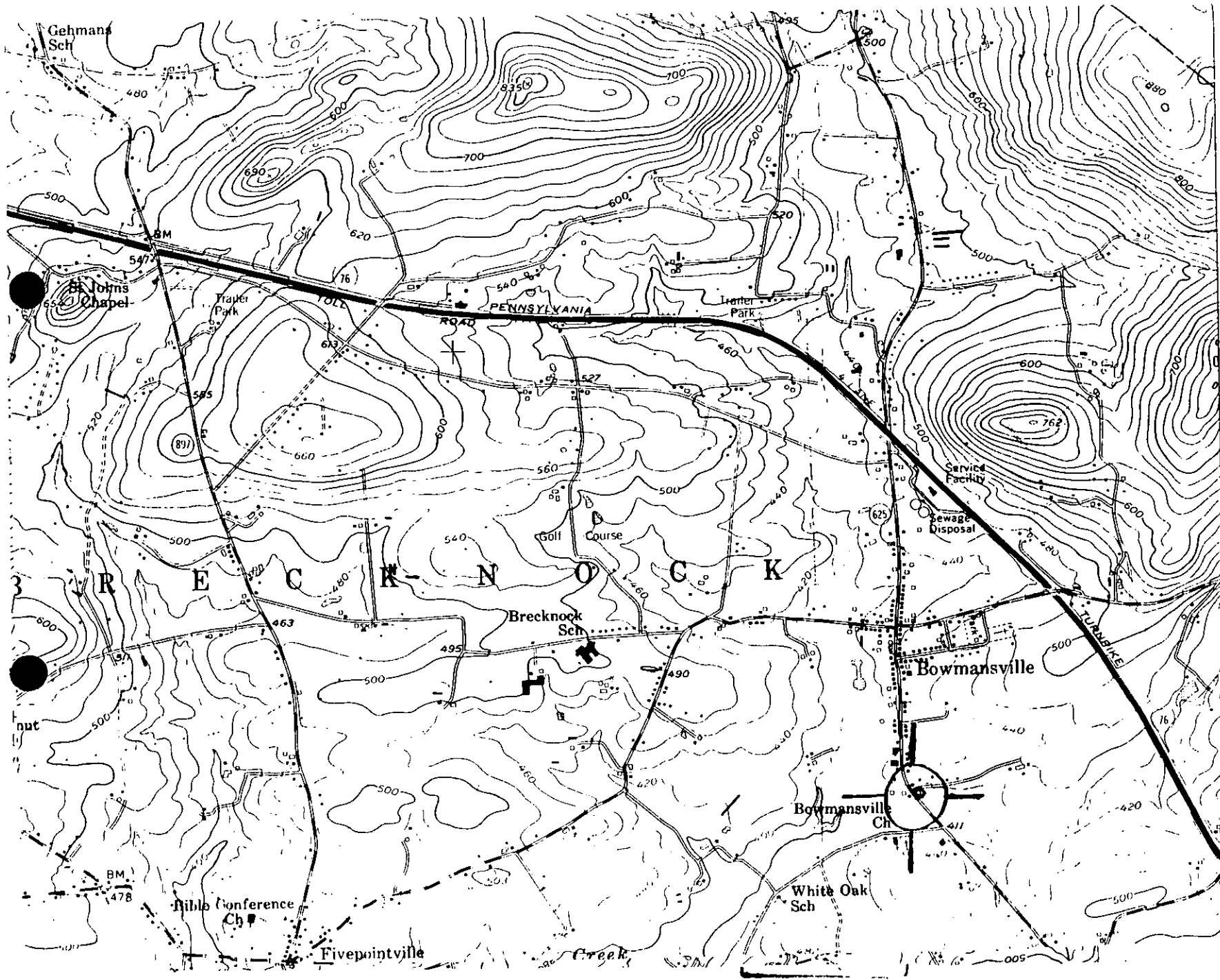


FOURTH FLOOR

BONMANSVILLE ROLLER MILL
LANCASTER COUNTY PA



- BOUNDARIES
- #> PHOTO VIEW



4452
12°30'
4451
4450
(MORGANTOWN)
5864 III NW INTERCHANGE 22
5.8 MI TO INTERCHANGE 22
PHILADELPHIA 48 MI.

*Bowmansville Roller Mill
Lancaster County Zone 18
Terre Hill Quad, Zone 18
E 413450 N 4449100*