

13 RECD

United States Department of the Interior  
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service

For HCRS use only

National Register of Historic Places  
Inventory—Nomination Form

received

date entered

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*  
Type all entries—complete applicable sections

1. Name

historic Mascot Roller Mills

and/or common Ressler's Mill

2. Location

street & number Newport Road at Stumptown Road

N/A not for publication

city, town Mascot, Upper Leacock Township— vicinity of

congressional district N/A

state Pennsylvania

code 042

county Lancaster

code 071

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use	
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> museum
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial	<input type="checkbox"/> park
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational	<input type="checkbox"/> private residence
<input type="checkbox"/> site	<b>Public Acquisition</b>	<b>Accessible</b>	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> religious
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<u>N/A</u> in process	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government	<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industrial	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name Ressler's Mill Foundation Attn: Stephen Kindig

street & number R.D. #1

city, town Ronks N/A vicinity of

state Pennsylvania 17572

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Registry of Deeds, Lancaster County Courthouse

street & number North Duke at East King Streets

city, town Lancaster

state Pennsylvania

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Lancaster's Heritage (1972) 6-91-#9 has this property been determined eligible?  yes  no

date 1970-1972

federal  state  county  local

depository for survey records Lancaster County Planning Commission, Lancaster County Courthouse

city, town Lancaster

state Pennsylvania

## 7. Description

<b>Condition</b>		<b>Check one</b>	<b>Check one</b>	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> unaltered	<input type="checkbox"/> original site	
<input type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved	date <u>NA</u>
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed			

### Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

Located at the southwest corner of the intersection of Newport Road and Stumptown Road at Mascot in Upper Leacock Township, Lancaster County, the property of Ressler's Mill (Mascot Roller Mills) consists of a stone mill, a brick house, a brick summer kitchen, and a small frame barn. For both visual and historical purposes, the most important of these buildings is the mill. Built of local stone with wood joists and beams, this mill is L-shaped; the main section is three stories in height, plus an attic contained within the gable roof. Near the center of the gable roof of this main section is a square, gable-roofed wood cupola with four window sash which provide additional illumination for the attic. The facade on the gable end, facing Stumptown Road, has a three bay treatment with central doorways on the three full floors, plus the attic. Over these four central doors is a projecting hood, with pulley mechanism; this is a structural extension of the peak of the gable roof. The windows on the three main floors have six-over-six sash. The attic windows have six-over-three sash. The eastern elevation has a partly exposed basement, with one door, two windows, and a stone arch for the original mill race. On the first and second floors of this elevation is a four bay treatment, with a door on the first floor. There are stone flat arches over the four openings on the first floor. On the south gable wall, there is a two bay treatment on all levels, from basement through attic. At the west end of the mill is a stone wing, two and a half stories high facing Stumptown Road, and one story high facing Mill Creek. This wing has a two bay elevation on Stumptown Road. It has a "half gable" roof sloping sharply from north to south. Shingles cover all the roof surfaces.

Examination of the random masonry of the gray and grayish-brown stones used for the walls reveals structural evidence of the evolution of this mill. The marks of the growth of the building are discerned with the greatest clarity on the north and east elevations. On the east wall, there is a clear horizontal line of change in masonry above the flat arches of the four openings; this line corresponds to a change in the quoins on the north wall. Above the heads of the four eastern second floor windows is another change in masonry, which also corresponds to a change in quoins on the north wall of the main building. On this north wall also may be seen vague indications of a former gable roof for a two story building. It is also evident that the western wing commenced as a one story addition with gable roof; it was later enlarged to its present height.

The present roller machinery was installed in 1906; it is entirely intact. The interior structure features very old posts and joists, some of which have chamfered corners with lambs' tongue terminals. The interior carpentry is of consistently high quality, and the condition of these wood elements is excellent.

Immediately adjacent to the mill on the west fronting on Stumptown Road, is the two story, gable roof house built for Daniel and Magdalena Groff in 1855, as is documented by a datestone on the second floor facade wall. This brick house has a four bay facade with two front doors, and a front porch with turned posts balusters, and spindle frieze dating from the late 1800's. On the south elevation, the house is three full stories in height, due to the slope of land toward Mill Creek. Thus, the house may be classified as a bank house. On this south elevation are a porch and a small frame wing. The interior has a basic four room per floor plan, with plain woodwork. A one story brick summer kitchen is adjacent to the southeast corner of the house.

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A garden adjoins the house to the west. At the end of this garden is a simple, small frame barn, probably dating from the late nineteenth century. The integrity of mill, house, summer kitchen, and barn is excellent, and together these buildings constitute an important group of rural or vernacular structures in a largely unspoiled setting. The present (Autumn, 1982) paint treatment of these buildings is a factor which contributes to the overall character and integrity. For all these buildings, the exterior woodwork is painted in a yellow and dark green scheme. The bricks in the common bond walls of the house are painted red, and the mortar joints are painted white. This color scheme copies the late nineteenth century paint colors and placement as recollected by the late Miss Anna Ressler. In fact, the Ressler family continued to duplicate these late 1800's colors through this century, with the exception of a time when the brick were painted a uniform red color.

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Key to Photographs of Ressler's Mill:

1. Ressler's Mill (Mascot Roller Mills), facade, facing north.
2. Interior view, Ressler's Mill.
3. 1855 Groff House, Ressler's Mill.

The following slides are also included:

- A. Ressler's Mill, facade, and part of the 1855 Groff House.
- B. East and South elevations, Ressler's Mill.
- C. West gable end of the 1855 House, Ressler's Mill.
- D. Detail of porch and painted brick, 1855 Groff House, Ressler's Mill.
- E. Detail of masonry at corner, Ressler's Mill.

# 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 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 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				
Mill - c. 1737/40 - c. 1825						
<b>Specific dates</b>	House - 1855	<b>Builder/Architect</b>	Unknown			

## Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

Ressler's Mill is significant as a monument in the industrial history of southeastern Pennsylvania, and also as a fine, intact example of a stone grist mill. The primary significance of Ressler's mill in Pennsylvania's industrial history is based on its longevity as a continuously operating business. Even in its presently limited production, Ressler's Mill is the oldest surviving grist mill in Lancaster County continuously operating on one site since the second quarter of the eighteenth century.<sup>1</sup> The architecture of the mill itself is an important example of a general type of mill which is vanishing from the rural landscape. Moreover, the structural evolution of Ressler's Mill, from one story building, to two stories, and finally to the present three story height, gives a capsulated example of three forms of mills encountered in the 1700's and 1800's. The present roller machinery, installed in 1906, is believed to be the oldest mechanism of its type surviving in Lancaster County. Moreover, the architectural character of the mill is enhanced by the perfectly preserved 1855 Groff House, which is adjacent. Although this house in itself is not unusual, its pristine condition, even extending to the late nineteenth century paint colors, is rare.<sup>2</sup>

In considering the significance of Ressler's Mill in Pennsylvania's industrial history, 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 south-central Pennsylvania. For example, there were more than sixty grist mills in the present Lancaster County before the Revolution. Particularly important were the mills located along main roads; most of these engaged in trade of flour and other products. Situated along the road leading to Newport, Delaware, Ressler's Mill was a prosperous merchant mill in the century preceding c. 1850. Later, it functioned primarily as a custom mill, grinding wheat and flour for nearby farmers. Some measure of the local importance of this mill in its later period is seen in the location of the Mascot Post Office here from 1882 to 1934.

1. This statement may merit some substantiation. First, few grist mills in Lancaster County are still operating for their original purposes. Of all the operating mills, documentary evidence indicates that milling commenced later than at Ressler's. Flory's Mill, near Rohrerstown, dates from the first decade of the nineteenth century, and Spangler's Mills in Mount Joy Borough were founded in the late 1850's. The well-known stone mill on the north side of the Old Philadelphia Pike between Smoketown and Bird-In-Hand dates from the decade before the Revolutionary War. Finally, the Snavely Mill (also called the Eby Mill) on Hammer Creek in Warwick Township, north of Lititz, might seem to be a close rival. There is some evidence that milling commenced here about 1739 under the ownership of Christian Eby. However, the present building dates from 1853, and the first mill was situated on a different site.

2. For more documentation about both the mill and the house, see the supplementary statement. For the overall character of the buildings, the slides may be consulted.

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A key factor of the significance of Ressler's Mill and its associated buildings is its perfect preservation in light of the alarming rate of destruction of mills in Lancaster County. The current (1982) Survey of Lancaster County architecture, when compared to data from 1972, indicates that mills are one of the most endangered types of buildings in the County. For example, Ressler's Mill is the lone survivor from at least five mills which once existed on Mill Creek between New Holland and Maacot.

Ressler's Mill, also called Mascot Roller Mills since about 1906, may be traced without interruption in deeds to 1740. On June 11, 1740, Jacob Bear sold this property to John Leonburg for £ 260, including "a certain Water Grist Mill or Corn Mill thereon erected..." Bear had purchased this land from John Piggot of Cecil County, Maryland on March 6, 1937/8. It is most likely that Bear established the first mill here about 1737-1740. The strongest evidence of the absence of a mill here at an earlier date is that no mill is mentioned on this site in the 1735 surveys for the Newport Road. John Leonburg sold the property to Samuel Jackson on May 20, 1745. Jackson, believed to have been from a Chester County Quaker family, died shortly thereafter; his April, 1748 estate inventory noted both wheat and flour in the mill, with a total valuation of £ 62. This fairly substantial valuation may indicate a rather important mill for the time and place. Jackson's heirs sold the property to Moses Brinton in 1753. Four years later Moses Brinton sold the premises to the widow Margaret Karigan. Mrs. Karigan subsequently married one John Wilson; they sold the mill to William Hamilton on May 10, 1760.

Between 1760 and 1779, the mill had many owners, including William Hamilton, Jacob Stoner, John Myer, George Wright, David Bender, and Charles Syng. On January 12, 1779, Charles Syng of Philadelphia sold this "Grist Mill and other Buildings" to Jacob Becker. In 1799, Jacob Becker's son, Daniel, sold the mill to Benjamin Longenecker.

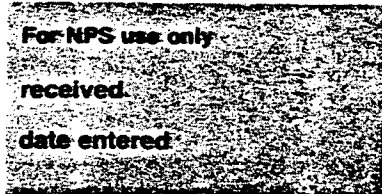
In two transactions in 1808, Benjamin Longenecker and his wife Elizabeth sold the "Grist Mill and Merchant Mills" to Jacob Myer. On May 1, 1813, Myer sold the mill to Peter Longenecker. In the 1815 Direct Tax, Peter Longenecker was noted as owning "one Grist Mill of Stone 50 x 38", plus a log barn, a one story wood house, and "one small stone tenant house." In 1816, Peter Longenecker sold the property to Mark Groff (Marks Graff, Marks Grove, etc.). Mark Groff considerably improved the mill, and he built the stone mansion opposite the mill (not part of this property or nomination) in 1818. The valuation on the property increased from \$10,000 in 1815 to \$16,800 in 1820, when the assignees of Mark Groff sold the premises to Daniel Groff.

The mill, together with the surrounding parcel of about eleven acres of land, remained in the Groff family until 1861. During this period of ownership, the 1818 stone house was separated from the property. The present two story brick house was erected for Daniel Groff and his wife Magdalena in 1855, as is documented by a datestone. After being sold by the assignees of Daniel and Magdalena Groff on April 1, 1861, the mill was owned by two neighboring Amish farmers, Christian Newhauser and Christian Ebersole.

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On April 1, 1865, Newhauser and Ebersole sold the mill, brick house, and other buildings to William Ressler for \$20,000. Thus began the ownership by three generations of the Ressler family which has continued to this day. William Ressler's son had the Mascot Post Office located in the mill in 1882. In addition, Jacob Ressler had the present roller and turbine machinery, made by Strout, Waldron, & Co. of Muncy, PA. installed in 1906. These replaced the old French burrs and overshot wooden water wheel. In 1906, the roller machinery was considered to be the first of its type installed in eastern Lancaster County. However, it was not the first use of rollers for grinding grain in Lancaster County; that distinction was claimed by the Brandt and Manning Mill in Mount Joy Borough in 1881. (This mill in Mount Joy is now known as Spangler's.) However, the machinery in the Mount Joy mill was replaced in 1912; thus, the surviving roller machinery at Ressler's Mill is believed to be the oldest of its kind now remaining in Lancaster County. Franklin Ressler operated the mill on a commercial basis until the late 1970's; today, a limited amount of corn mill is still ground during warm months of the year. After the installation of the roller machinery in 1906, the mill had space for the storage of 4500 bushels of wheat.

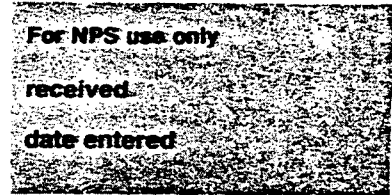
With this historical background in mind, it is possible to relate the structural evidence of the mill itself to give a probable time frame for the evolution of the building. The one story stone section most likely was built for Bear about 1737-1740. There is no documentary or traditional evidence of another site for a mill on this property, and no foundations can be discerned along the creek. The second story may have been added by Jacob Becker shortly after 1779. The mill was finally brought to its full three story height by Mark Groff c. 1816-1820. However, there is a strong tradition that this enlargement was not completed until about 1825. Possibly this state of work is the upper part of the western wing. The lower part of this western wing originally was a gable roofed addition dating from the late 1700's or very early 1800's; some extant moldings in this section tend to confirm this date. It is at least plausible that the lower part of the western wing was the "small stone tenent house" noted in 1815.

The 1855 brick house erected for Daniel and Magdalena Groff is a very good example of the union of two house types prevalent in the rural or vernacular architecture of inland Pennsylvania: the bank house and the four bay facade house with two front doors. The embellished front porch, plus ornamentation to the gables, are believed to have been added shortly after the marriage of Jacob Ressler in 1881. The summer kitchen is believed to be contemporary with the 1855 construction of the house itself. The small frame barn, although possessing some late Victorian characteristics, could be the re-worked fabric of the "frame stable" mentioned in the 1865 deed. Ressler's family tradition states that this barn is somewhat later than the 1855 house.

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It should be noted that the preceding account is based on primary sources and the interpretation of physical evidence, and not on heresay or secondary sources. In particular, it should be noted that two printed sources give unfounded dates for the mill. These are Lancaster's Heritage (1972) and Ellis and Evans History of Lancaster County (1883). It seems that the account in the 1883 county history may have been derived from garbled verbal accounts. Also, a stone on the facade of the mill has displayed the painted date "1760" for many years. However, this date was added by members of the Ressler family early in this century. Tentatively, it seems likely that the confusion about the date of the mill was rooted in a misreading of the "1740" date in the deed for "1760".

## 9. Major Bibliographical References

See attached list.

## 10. Geographical Data

Acreeage of nominated property \_\_\_\_\_ acres

Quadrangle name Leola Quadrangle

Quadrangle scale 1 : 24000

UMT References

A 

1	8	4	0	1	3	0	0	4	4	3	5	1	6	0
Zone			Easting				Northing							

B 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

C 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

D 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

E 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

F 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

G 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

H 

Zone			Easting				Northing							

**Verbal boundary description and justification** Ressler's Mill property is bounded by Mill Creek on the south, Newport Road on the east, Stumptown Road on the north, and, at the western fence of the field west of the barn, the lane to the adjacent farm. The mill is situated at the southwest corner of Newport and Stumptown Roads, and both mill and house are oriented to the road.

**List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries**

state MA code MA county MA code MA

state MA code MA county MA code MA

## 11. Form Prepared By

name/title John J. Snyder, Jr. - Consulting Architectural Historian

organization Historic Preservation Trust of Lancaster County

date November 29, 1982

street & number 123 North Prince Street

telephone 717-291-5861

city or town Lancaster

state Pennsylvania 17603

## 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 Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service.

State Historic Preservation Officer signature

title Larry E. Tise, State Historic Preservation Officer date \_\_\_\_\_

For HCRS use only

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

date \_\_\_\_\_

Keeper of the National Register

Attest:

date \_\_\_\_\_

Chief of Registration



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Printed Sources

- Jane Evans Best, "Three Bears of Earl Township, Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, And Other Early Bears", Pennsylvania Mennonite Heritage, October, 1981, pp. 12-27.
- Bridgen's Atlas of Lancaster County, Penna., Lancaster, D.S. Bare, 1864.
- Centennial Souvenir, Historical and Pictorial Mount Joy, Mount Joy (Pennsylvania), The Centennial Publishing Co., 1912.
- Ezra E. Eby, The Eby Family, Berlin, Canada, 1889.
- Franklin Ellis and Samuel Evans, History of Lancaster County, Philadelphia, Everts and Peck Publishers, 1883.
- H. Frank Eshleman, "History of Lancaster County's Highway System From 1714, to 1760", Journal of the Lancaster County Historical Society, vol. 26, 1922, pp. 37-80.
- Lancaster's Heritage, Lancaster, Lancaster County Planning Commission, 1972.
- Arthur D. Lord, Water Powered Grist Mills of Lancaster County, Pennsylvania, Millersville, Pennsylvania, 1971.
- G. D. Luetscher, "Industries of Pennsylvania After the Adoption of the Federal Constitution, With Special Reference to Lancaster and York Counties", German American Annals, vol. I, no. 3, March, 1903, pp. 135-153.
- Old Mill News, publication of the Society for the Preservation of Old Mills, Wiscasset, Maine.
- Sue Smith, "Ressler Homestead Rooted Deep in Mascot Countryside", Lancaster NEW ERA, Section 1, March 20, 1976. This story was an interview with the late Miss Anna Ressler.
- Stephen M. Straight, "Art on Mill Stones", Old Mill News, vol. I, no. 4, July, 1973, p. 14.
- Martha and Murray Zimiles, Early American Mills, New York, New York, C.N. Potter, 1973.

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Unpublished Sources and Manuscripts

R. Harold Barton, "The Mills of Lancaster County", unpublished manuscript in series of notebooks, c. 1966, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

Deeds in the Archives, Lancaster County Courthouse, Lancaster, as follows: W-9-118 (1869), G-9-613 (1865), B-9-145 (1861), R-8-572 (1820), 20-49 (1819), 11-685 (1816), 7-312 (1813), W-3-658 (1808), W-3-661 (1808), H-3-424 (1799), B-3-573 (1779), I-3-516 (1757) and MM-550 (1740).

Direct Taxes for 1798 and 1815, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster. It should be noted that only the binders for Leacock Township survive for the 1798 Direct Tax.

Genealogical Files at the Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster, for the following family names: Groff (Graff, Graeff, Grove, etc.); Jackson; and Ressler.

Genealogical Files at the Lancaster Mennonite Historical Society, Lancaster, for the following family names: Bear (Bare, Baer, Barr, etc.) and Ressler.

Lancaster County Road Petition Books, c. 1730-1770, vault 2, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

Samuel Jackson Estate Inventory, 1748, vault 2, Lancaster County Historical Society, Lancaster.

Other Sources

Interviews with Mr. Franklin Ressler, Landis Homes North, Oregon, Manheim Township, Lancaster County Pennsylvania - 1982.

USCS  
Leola  
Quadrangle



← Mascot  
Mish