

United States Department of the Interior
National Park Service

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
REGISTRATION FORM

This form is for use in nominating or requesting determinations for individual properties and districts. See instructions in How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form (National Register Bulletin 16A). Complete each item by marking "x" in the appropriate box or by entering the information requested. If any item does not apply to the property being documented, enter "N/A" for "not applicable." For functions, architectural classification, materials, and areas of significance, enter only categories and subcategories from the instructions. Place additional entries and narrative items on continuation sheets (NPS Form 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Keefe - Mumbower Mill

other names/site number Evans - Mumbower Mill

2. Location

street & number Northeast corner of Swedesford & Township Line Roads intersection not for publication N/A
city or town Upper Gwynedd Township vicinity N/A
state Pennsylvania code PA County Montgomery code 091 zip code 19454

3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act of 1986, 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. I recommend that this property be considered significant nationally statewide locally. (See continuation sheet for additional comments.)

Andrew McDonald 6/30/2008
Signature of certifying official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

In my opinion, the property meets does not meet the National Register criteria.
(See continuation sheet for additional Comments.)

Signature of commenting or other official Date

State or Federal agency and bureau

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby certify that this property is:	Signature of Keeper	Date of Action
<input type="checkbox"/> entered in the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined eligible for the National Register <input type="checkbox"/> See continuation sheet.	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> determined not eligible for the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> removed from the National Register	_____	_____
<input type="checkbox"/> other (explain): _____	_____	_____

5. Classification

Ownership of Property

(Check as many boxes as apply)

- private
- public-local
- public-State
- public-Federal

Category of Property

(Check only one box)

- building(s)
- district
- site
- structure
- object

Number of Resources within Property

(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

Contributing	Noncontributing	
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	buildings
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	sites
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	structures
<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>	Total

Name of related multiple property listing (Enter "N/A" if property is not part of a multiple property listing.)

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

AGRICULTURE/SUBSISTENCE: Processing & Storage

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

Work in Progress

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from instructions)

No Style

Materials

(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE

walls STONE

STUCCO

roof WOOD: SHAKE

other Walls: Wood; Roof: Metal

Narrative Description

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

(Mark "x" in one or more boxes for the criteria qualifying the property for National Register listing)

- A Property is associated with events that have made a significant contribution to the broad patterns of our history.
- B Property is associated with the lives of persons significant in our past.
- C Property embodies the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction or represents the work of a master, or possesses high artistic values, or represents a significant and distinguishable entity whose components lack individual distinction.
- D Property has yielded, or is likely to yield information important in prehistory or history.

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "X" in all the boxes that apply.)

- A owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B removed from its original location.
- C a birthplace or a grave.
- D a cemetery.
- E a reconstructed building, object, or structure.
- F a commemorative property.
- G less than 50 years of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1835 - 1930

Significant Dates

1835

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

Keefe, John

Narrative Statement of Significance

(Explain the significance of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography

(Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form on one or more continuation sheets.)

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 # _____

Primary Location of Additional Data

- State Historic Preservation Office
- Other State agency
- Federal agency
- Local government
- University
- Other

Name of repositories: Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association

Keefe-Mumbower Mill
Name of Property

Montgomery County, PA
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 1.2 acres

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>476240</u>	<u>4448400</u>	2	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
3	_____	_____	_____	4	_____	_____	_____
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

____ See continuation sheet.

Verbal Boundary Description (Describe the boundaries of the property on a continuation sheet.)

Boundary Justification (Explain why the boundaries were selected on a continuation sheet.)

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Mary Lou McFarland, President

organization The Conservancy of Montgomery County date October 30, 2007

street & number P. O. Box 28 telephone 215-283-0383

city or town Ambler state PA zip code 19002

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

Continuation Sheets

Maps
A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
A sketch map for historic districts and properties having large acreage or numerous resources.

Photographs
Representative black and white photographs of the property.

Additional items (Check with the SHPO or FPO for any additional items)

Property Owner

(Complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO.)
name Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Mr. Randy Gray, Executive Director

street & number 12 Morris Road telephone 215-646-8866

city or town Ambler state PA zip code 19002

Paperwork Reduction Act Statement: This information is being collected for applications to the National Register of Historic Places to nominate properties for listing or determine eligibility for listing, to list properties, and to amend existing listings. Response to this request is required to obtain a benefit in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act, as amended (16 U.S.C. 470 et seq.).

Estimated Burden Statement: Public reporting burden for this form is estimated to average 18.1 hours per response including the time for reviewing instructions, gathering and maintaining data, and completing and reviewing the form. Direct comments regarding this burden estimate or any aspect of this form to the Chief, Administrative Services Division, National Park Service, P.O. Box 37127, Washington, DC 20013-7127; and the Office of Management and Budget, Paperwork Reductions Project (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

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DESCRIPTION

The Keefe-Mumbower Mill is a 3 ½-story fieldstone and stucco building with a wood frame reproduction addition located on a 1.2 acre parcel in Upper Gwynedd Township in Montgomery County, Pennsylvania. It follows the design of an Oliver Evans mill and retains much of the milling equipment. Since its construction in 1835 it was used strictly for milling through 1930. Upon closing, it was left empty and decaying until it was donated to a local preservation organization which began restoring it in 1984. The mill is bounded by Swedesford Road to the east, the Wissahickon Creek and Township Line Road to the south, open space to the west and a small housing development to the north. A miller's house, under separate ownership, is located across Swedesford Road to the northeast and a stone arch bridge is located to the southeast. The setting is rural with many trees and open land surrounding it, despite the vast amount of development that has occurred throughout the township. It is now owned by the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association which is in the process of reactivating the mill to demonstrate the milling process for public education purposes.

The mill is built into a bank with the basement level exposed on the south, east and west sides. All window sash and doors are wood. The north side or front of the mill is exposed fieldstone with a 6/6 window with board and batten shutters, an entrance with original hardware near the west end, and a hoist door on the first floor, a hoist door and two 6/6 windows on the second floor, and a hoist door on the third floor that projects as a dormer with a catshead. A catshead is a small extension protruding from the roof area that was used to protect the ropes and pulleys associated with lifting equipment, supplies and grains into the interior of the mill. All hoist doors were replicated in 1988 utilizing the original hardware and are constructed as Dutch doors. This façade also contains a date stone near the roof line at the center of the building with the inscription "J & E Keefe 1835". The head race opening remains near the west end of this façade but it and the flume are temporarily covered over at ground level with plywood due to recent excavations by the Millbrook Society. The addition to the west is a reproduction built in 2001 based on historic photographs, although the original's date of construction is unknown. The north façade of the addition consists of a Dutch door entrance and 6/6 window on the first floor and a 6/6 window on the second floor. The mill pond and mill race were located to the north and northwest of this façade, respectively. The mill pond is partially outlined by a stone wall and is now covered by grass. The mill race is covered by heavy tree and brush growth.

The east façade is stucco-over-stone and consists of an entrance and two 6/6 windows at the basement level, a hoist door containing four transom lights on the first floor, two 6/6 windows on the second floor, and two 3/6 windows and an eyebrow window on the third floor. Both doors retain their original hardware.

The south side of the mill consists of exposed fieldstone with four 6/6 windows at the basement level, three 6/6 windows on the first floor, and three 6/6 windows on the second floor. All windows at the basement and first floor levels contain one 5/4 tongue and groove cedar board and batten shutter with strap hinges attached to the right and capable of covering the width of each

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window. Although the shutters are not original, they are exact replicas found on the building when restoration began. At the basement level near the west side of the building, the stone arch opening of the tail race can be seen and is under reconstruction. The west end of this façade projects outward approximately two feet toward the south to accommodate the wheel room which is enclosed at the southwest end of the building. The actual tailrace, originally a stone arch conduit, has long since silted in and will not be reconstructed in the near future.

The west side of the building is fieldstone with remnants of stucco on various sections of the wall. It contains one 6/6 window on each of the first and second floors and two 3/6 windows and an eyebrow window on the third floor. The second floor window also contains a board and batten shutter. The basement level consists of an opening for access to the water wheel pit, which is enclosed within the stone walls. Attached to the west end of the building is a two-story reproduction wood-sided addition constructed in 2001 based on historic photographs of the building. It consists of heavy white oak timber frame construction and a standing seam metal roof with a pointed stone foundation. Post and beam construction techniques were applied using authentic materials. The addition contains a Dutch door entrance and two 6/6 windows on the north side and two 6/6 windows on the west side. It does not span the entire width of the west end of the building leaving some of the original exterior exposed at the southwest section of the façade. The interior consists of one room on each floor with tongue and groove oak flooring and joists and the walls are sheathed in tongue and groove pine boards.

The roof consists of wood shake and there are two chimneys located at both gable ends. The chimney at the southeast corner is stucco over brick and the chimney at the southwest end is stucco over brick with the brick partially exposed at the top.

The interior of the building has wood floors and stucco walls and has remained virtually intact having never been converted to a use other than milling. The basement level, also known as the machinery and wheel room, housed the water wheel and machinery. The water wheel was enclosed within the stone walls and the outline of arched openings can be seen in the wheel room at the west side of the building. This could indicate that there were originally two wheels in this room. These openings could also have allowed the miller access to repair the single water wheel put in operation later. Parts of the wheel survived and are being used to construct a new wood wheel which will be added to the building in the near future. It was originally a white oak overshot wheel approximately 11 feet in diameter and 7 to 8 feet wide with a double row of buckets. This floor contains the hurst frame which is the main support for the main power train elements, millstone drives, and the millstones that rested above on the first floor level. Parts of the hurst frame timbers are original and all replacement parts are accurate reproductions. There are three elevators used to carry grain or flour from one floor to another. The elevators consist of a series of pockets on a vertical belt to convey the grain. Elevator number one is located at the southeast section of the hurst frame. It is believed that this elevator received ground flour from the southwest millstones which was then elevated to the third floor. Against the north wall is a factory-made cob crusher machine which was used to grind ears of corn for animal feed. There are remnants of a fireplace on the southeast wall and a small staircase is located along the east wall near the entrance.

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The first floor contains the stone room and office. The stone room originally contained three pairs of stones, two for wheat flour production and one pair for animal feed. Only one bed stone remains, 4 ½ feet in diameter, but a pair of stones will be added in the northwest section of the room and will be used to demonstrate the grinding process. Two of the three original cranes used to lift the stones still exist on this floor, as well as the wooden automatic bagging machine. Elevator one passes through this floor and the boots, or bottoms, of elevators two and three are located to the northwest and southwest, respectively. Elevator two was fed material from an open hopper on the second floor and elevator three received clean grain from the scourer or cleaner on the second floor.

The second floor contains the cleaning room where the grain was cleaned before being sent to the first floor for grinding. All three elevators pass through this floor. It also contains grain storage bins and two grain hoppers. A Dutch door opening was used to access the sack hoist from the first floor.

The third floor contains the hoist and storage room. This is where the grain was hoisted up from the farmer's wagon and stored until ready for processing. The slack belt hoist, three elevator heads, and the drive train for them remain here. The slack belt hoist has handmade bolts and nuts and it is rare to find this type of hoist remaining in place today. The three millwright-built elevators in the mill were all powered from the third floor with internal wooden pulleys.

Although some of the wood floors, joists and equipment parts have had to be replaced over the years, all have been reproduced to match the originals. Where possible, hardware was salvaged and reused. For instance, the main vertical drive shaft in the Hurst frame was replaced but the original shaft hardware was salvaged and fitted to the new shaft. According to a report prepared on the mill by Steven Kindig in 1988, evidence indicates that the present main drive machinery was installed between 1860 and 1885. There are references to steam power being added to the mill around 1898.

The area that once contained the mill pond is now filled in and covered with grass. A stone wall that once outlined part of the mill pond was rebuilt and can be seen to the north of the mill. The head race, once located to the northeast of the mill and mill pond, has also been filled in and is covered with grass and brush. Remnants of the tail race have been uncovered or traced to the south of the mill along and near the Wissahickon Creek. This area is also covered by brush and trees.

Across Swedesford Road to the east of the mill is the miller's house. It is a three-story stucco over stone building, two rooms deep with a wood shake roof. The front façade contains a center hall entrance with a 6/6 window to either side, three 6/6 windows on the second floor and three smaller six-paned windows on the third floor. The front entrance contains a rectangular transom light. Both windows on the first floor contain two-panel shutters and the windows on the second floor contain louvered shutters. The architectural features appear to be original and constructed around the same period as the mill c.1835.

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STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE**INTRODUCTION**

The Keefe-Mumbower Mill is significant under both Criteria A and C. First, under Criterion A, it is significant in Industry for its association with Montgomery County's milling industry, which was a precursor to the Industrial Revolution. The mill's use of the Oliver Evans-designed equipment, which revolutionized the milling industry in the 19th century, is important in its contribution to the local economy. Under Criterion C, it is significant under Architecture as it is an important example of a regional mill as it retains the features representative of vernacular mill architecture in the Wissahickon Valley. It is also important under this criterion since its design accommodated the Oliver Evans system of mechanisms including elevators, grain cleaners and hoppers. The period of significance is 1835-1930 which spans the period from the date of construction until the date when the mill ceased operating.

KEEFE-MUMBOWER MILL HISTORY

The Keefe-Mumbower Mill survives as a viable and accurate example of an Oliver Evans grist mill from the 19th and early 20th centuries. It is situated near the intersection of two very important thoroughfares, Swedesford and Morris Roads, both of which date back to the 18th century. The location was once part of a 5,000 acre William Penn land grant to Robert Turner in 1681. A saw and fulling mill was built on the property around 1713 by Evan Evans. In 1744, the mill was converted into a grist mill. The mill was demolished and rebuilt around 1780 as a grist and saw mill with a succession of owners and gaps in the activity of the mill for many years until 1835. This is the year seen on the date stone of the existing mill, whose construction materials and architecture indicate that the existing building was built anew in 1835 by John and Eliza Keefe. A miller's house, located nearby, also retains architectural features that indicate construction around the same time period.

In 1795, Oliver Evans (1755-1819) (and no relation to the Evan Evans noted above) published *The Young Mill-Wright and Miller's Guide*. It became the Bible for the grist milling industry and his inventions included mechanizations like elevators, conveyors and grain cleaners that automated production and made life easier for the miller and decreased the number of employees he needed to hire due to the automation. The Keefe-Mumbower Mill contained some of this equipment including elevators, grain cleaners and hoppers. Evans also invented the steam engine which was used in many mills over the years to provide power, especially when the water level was low. The Keefe-Mumbower Mill used a steam engine at the basement level adjacent to the hurst frame at some point later in its operation.

Interestingly, the Keefe family owned the mill for only four years and it was sold twice before being acquired in 1856 by Henry Mumbower. He had been employed at the mill and was a popular figure in the local community and known for his honesty. It remained in his family through

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1898 after both he and his wife passed away. His son, David, continued to run the mill until 1930 under the ownership of Ralph Beaver Strassburger who had purchased the mill around 1919. Strassburger owned the internationally known Normandy Farms across Township Line Road and the *Times Herald* newspaper in Norristown.

The Keefe-Mumbower Mill was a popular mill in the area for many years. In 1832, there were only two grist mills operating in the Gwynedd Township area, Garner's and Foulke's. When the Keefe-Mumbower Mill was rebuilt in 1835, the nearest grist mill was approximately two miles away which would not have been an insignificant distance for many farmers to travel. The likely reason for the lack of grist mills in the immediate area was that northern Gwynedd Township (comprised of modern day Upper Gwynedd Township and Lansdale Borough) is located at a regional geographic high. Hence it formed the headwaters for two watersheds, the Wissahickon and Skippack Creeks.

There are eight ledger books from the mill that exist under the ownership of the Historical Society of Fort Washington in Fort Washington, PA. They date from 1851 through 1909 and contain hundreds of pages and many names of customers. There are also copies of numerous receipts for purchases made by the Mumbowers for products needed for their milling operation. Many of them date from the 1870s through the 1920s. Most of the receipts are from local businesses such as H.W. Moyer in West Point, PA, and Swartley Bros. in North Wales, PA, where bushels of corn were purchased. A receipt dating to 1909 for Mr. Enick indicates the sale of bran, oats, crushed corn and cornmeal for \$8.13. These papers provide a wealth of information about the customers who patronized the mill and the products bought and sold. Records for 1870 indicate that the Keefe-Mumbower Mill sold a total of the following products in that year:

Wheat – 1,821.3 bushels for \$233.29
Rye – 92.25 bushels for \$10.18
Corn – 812 bushels for \$81.20
Oats – 986.5 bushels for \$59.19
Corn Cobs – 150,466 pounds for \$270.84
Mix – 2,156.3 bushels for \$172.50

Between 1930 and 1984, the mill was vacant and abandoned. The Strassburgers retained ownership of the mill until 1984 when it was donated to the Towamencin Historical Society, now known as the Welsh Valley Preservation Society. They began restoration of the mill with the help of another local property owner, John Drew Betz, son and grandson of the founders of Betz Laboratories, through his foundation, the JDB Fund. Mr. Betz created the nearby Gwynedd Wildlife Preserve, which contains the miller's house across Swedesford Road and has been owned by the Natural Lands Trust since 1987. The Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association purchased the mill property in 1987 and has continued with the restoration, opening the building to the public for various events. The Association maintains a small museum in the west addition and plans to reactivate the mill to demonstrate the milling process for public education purposes.

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MILLING IN THE WISSAHICKON VALLEY

The milling industry in Montgomery County was typical of areas in the Philadelphia region in the 18th century through the early 20th century. As Europeans crossed the ocean to America, they found a home in Montgomery County and brought many of their customs, building techniques and industries to the area. English, Welsh and German settlers established mills along the numerous waterways throughout the county. Major waterways included the Pennypack, Perkiomen, Skippack and Wissahickon Creeks as well as the Schuylkill River. During the Revolutionary War, the milling industry was needed to supply the American army with food and clothing especially due to the extensive troop movement throughout the county at this time. Crossroad areas and small towns were established and the county remained largely agricultural throughout the 19th century.

The Reading Railroad came to Montgomery County in 1856 and this provided the mills and farmers an opportunity to ship their products to wider markets in the Philadelphia area. This also led to the growth of the towns along the railroad line, which helped to create a demand for milled products. Until around 1880, grain crops including corn, wheat and oats, were among the most prominent agricultural products in the state and county and created a demand for grist mills.

The Wissahickon Creek was a prominent location for the milling industry starting as early as the late 17th century. Throughout the 18th and 19th centuries, there were 54 mills of all types along the creek including grist, fulling, saw/lumber, oil, cotton, paper, clover, and silk. There were 23 mills located within Philadelphia and 31 in Montgomery County. The bulk of the mills along the Wissahickon Creek were located south of the Keefe-Mumbower Mill with only a few located to the north. Some were remodeled or demolished and rebuilt to mill various products as the market demanded. The milling industry was in many ways the precursor to the Industrial Revolution and modern industry today as its existence was based on demand for products, what was profitable for the millers, and locating their businesses where they could operate i.e. where there was water power. The Wissahickon Creek might be called a nineteenth century industrial park. Mills changed ownership and types of products based on demand. Grist mills were especially prominent as they provided food for people and their animals in the largely agricultural area. Along the Wissahickon, there were approximately 21 grist mills at one time or another. This could explain why after 1835, the Keefe-Mumbower Mill was never converted to another type of mill since the need for grist mills remained in demand.

Most of the mill buildings along the Wissahickon Creek were constructed of stone since it was a readily available material locally. Their construction style was based on the type of milling that was planned. For instance, grist and paper mills were normally three to four stories to accommodate the mechanisms required for production while paper mills built later in the 19th century required fewer stories due to changes in the equipment needed. The number of employees also differed depending on the milling products. Earlier grist mills needed more employees but with the introduction of the Oliver Evans milling mechanisms, only the miller and one or two workers were needed.

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Many mills also had associated homes nearby for the millers and their families but little information has been compiled regarding these structures. Some homes still exist but an official survey has not been completed.

By the late 19th century, although sections of the county were growing, the number of mills was declining. After 1880, transportation of inexpensive grain by railroad from the Midwest created tough competition for grain farmers in the county. This created a shift into dairy farming as the demand for milk products increased in the Philadelphia area. This could explain why crushed corn cobs, a form of cattle feed, became a major source of revenue for the mill.

The development of the automobile and mechanized farming equipment such as tractors and small trucks changed the face of agriculture even further. As the Industrial Revolution took hold and factories were established to produce items, including food, the milling industry was quickly losing its hold on the market. For instance, comparing numbers of sawmills in the county, there were 55 in 1810 but this number had declined to 20 in the 1880 census. While this could partly be attributed to clear cutting, it was indicative of what was occurring in the milling industry overall.

In addition, many mills along the lower Wissahickon Creek were destroyed or left to fall into ruin in the late 19th century when the City of Philadelphia acquired properties to establish Fairmount Park. In the 1930s, work was done to restore the natural landscape of the Park, removing remnants of the mills and dams on the lower Wissahickon Creek. In 1930, the Keefe-Mumbower Mill closed down, following the fate of many mills in the area. Along the Wissahickon Creek today, few of the mills remain or they have been converted to other uses such as residences. The following mills exist as noted:

- Robeson Mill (1689), Philadelphia, now used as the Philadelphia Canoe Club
- Streepers Mill/Springfield Mill (1761), Morris Arboretum, Springfield Township, partly restored, not operational
- Farmar-Mather Mill (1820), Whitemarsh Township, owned by PHMC, not operational
- Scheetz/Colladay Mill (1739), Springfield Township, abandoned and threatened by a housing development
- Reiffs Mill (1731), Ambler Borough, converted into a private home
- Keefe-Mumbower Mill (1835), Upper Gwynedd Township, under restoration to become operational
- Auger Mill (1734), Whitemarsh Township, converted into an automobile repair shop

COMPARISONS AND SIGNIFICANCE

The Keefe-Mumbower Mill is one of the few remaining mills in the area that has retained its industrial and architectural significance. Having never been converted to a use other than milling, it has retained its architectural features on the interior and exterior representative of

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vernacular mill architecture in the region. Its importance in industrial history can be easily interpreted since much of the interior is intact or can be reproduced to accurately reflect its grist mill operation as representative of the Oliver Evans mill design.

Two of the mills mentioned above, the Farmar-Mather Mill and Streeper's Mill, are similar in construction to the Keefe-Mumbower Mill but are not presently open to the public. Both mills are four-story stone and stucco over stone structures that were used as grist mills. The Farmar-Mather Mill ceased operations in 1910 and now retains few of its original interior features. It was open to the public for social events in conjunction with the nearby Hope Lodge until a recent flood caused structural damage. The Streeper's Mill, which operated until 1907, is located on the grounds of the Morris Arboretum and retains much of its original mechanisms and features. It will not be open to the public until funds are obtained to restore the building.

There are a few other mills in the Philadelphia region that are operational and open to the public for educational purposes but the Keefe-Mumbower Mill appears to be the only mill in Montgomery County and the immediate region that falls into this category. It serves as an intact example of a vernacular regional mill of the period and as an important example of an Oliver Evans 19th century mill construction in the Wissahickon Valley of Montgomery County.

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**United States Department of the Interior
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**Keefe-Mumbower Mill
Montgomery County, PA**

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

The boundary of the Keefe-Mumbower Mill property is shown on the accompanying map, and consists of Parcel #s 56-00-08680-00-3 (mill building) & 56-00-08680-30-9 (mill race & pond). The parcels are recorded in a Deed dated December 29, 1987, Montgomery Co. PA, as found in Deed Book #4861, p. 2226, from the Welsh Valley Preservation Society to the Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.

BOUNDARY JUSTIFICATION

The property includes the Keefe-Mumbower Mill building, the original mill pond and mill race areas.

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**Keefe-Mumbower Mill
Montgomery County, PA**

PHOTOGRAPHS

Photographers: Mary Lou McFarland, The Conservancy of Montgomery County, except for photo #28 which was taken by Kirk Horstman, Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association.
Date of Photographs – November 2006 (photos 1-28); October 2007 (photos 29-36)
Location of Original Negatives – Wissahickon Valley Watershed Association, Ambler, PA
Digital Photographs (1-28) printed on Epson Premium Luster Photo Paper with Epson Ultrachrome K3 inks by Arrow Photo Systems, Pottstown, PA

Photo Number	Description of View (Direction Indicates Camera-Facing)
1	Front SW View
2	Front & Side SW View
3	Front S View
4	Front SE View
5	Rear NW View
6	Rear NE View
7	Side & Rear NE View
8	Date Stone – North Facade
9	Tail Race Reconstruction – South Facade
10	Tail Race Reconstruction – South Facade
11	Machinery Room looking W toward Wheel Room
12	Machinery Room Gearing – NW View
13	Machinery Room – NW View
14	Machinery Room N View
15	Machinery Room N View
16	Machinery Room looking toward outside entrance – NE View
17	Wheel Room Opening to Shaft – N View
18	Wheel Room – N View
19	Wheel Room Mill Race Opening – N View
20	Wheel Room NW View
21	Wheel Room arched openings – NW View
22	Wheel Room access to wheel – W View
23	Stone Room/First Floor – NW View (office to left)
24	Cleaning Room/Second Floor – NW View
25	Hoist & Storage Room/Third Floor – W View
26	Hoist & Storage Room/Third Floor – NW view with hoist door

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**Keefe-Mumbower Mill
Montgomery County, PA**

- | | |
|----|--|
| 27 | Landscape view with miller's house and former mill pond area – SE View |
| 28 | North view with stone arch bridge on Swedesford Road |
| 29 | Miller's House East View |
| 30 | Miller's House SE View |
| 31 | Former Mill Pond Area, West View |
| 32 | Former Head Race North View |
| 33 | Stone Room SE View |
| 34 | Stone Room Original Bed Stone |
| 35 | Wheel Room, Preparation for New Wheel |
| 36 | Wheel Room, Preparation for New Wheel |