

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 an 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 100-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

### 1. Name of Property

historic name Metz Ice Plant

other names/site number Klaer, Jacob Gristmill; Milford Ice and Refrigeration Company

### 2. Location

street and number Harford Street N/A not for publication

city or town Milford N/A vicinity

state Pennsylvania code PA county Pike code 103 zip code 18337

### 3. State/Federal Agency Certification

As the designated authority under the National Historic Preservation Act, 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.)

Andrea M. Donald  
Signature of certifying official/Title PA Historical & Museum Commission  
Date February 23, 2007  
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 certifying official/Title Date  
\_\_\_\_\_  
State or Federal agency and bureau

### 4. National Park Service Certification

I hereby certify that the property is:	Signature of the 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).	_____	_____

Metz Ice Plant  
Name of Property

Pike County, Pennsylvania  
County and State

**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	
1	0	buildings
0	0	sites
3	0	structures
0	0	objects
4	0	Total

**Number of contributing resources previously listed in the National Register**  
0

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

**6. Function or Use**

**Historic Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION:  
 Manufacturing Facility

COMMERCE/TRADE: Warehouse

**Current Functions**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

VACANT/NOT IN USE

**7. Description**

**Architectural Classification**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

Italianate  
 NO STYLE

**Materials**  
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation STONE: Limestone  
 walls WOOD: Weatherboard  
 roof METAL: Steel  
 other CONCRETE

**Narrative Description**

(Describe the historic and current condition of the property on one or more continuation sheets.)  
 See continuation sheet for full text

Metz Ice Plant  
Name of Property

Pike County, Pennsylvania  
County and State

**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 boxes that apply.)

Property is:

- A** owned by a religious institution or used for religious purposes.
- B** removed from its original location.
- C** a birthplace or 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  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Period of Significance**

1869-1954  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Dates**

1924  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Significant Person**

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Cultural Affiliation**

N/A  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Architect/Builder**

Unknown  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

**Previous documentation on file (NPS):**

**Primary location of additional data:**

- 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  
# \_\_\_\_\_

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

Name of repository:

Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area

**10. Geographical Data**Acreage of Property 9.1**UTM References**

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1 18 516770 4573780  
Zone Easting Northing

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_  
Zone Easting Northing

4 \_\_\_\_\_

**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 Douglas C. McVarish/ Project Architectural Historian:Liz Sargent/Landscape Architectorganization see continuation sheet date \_\_\_\_\_

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 SHPO or FPO.)

name/title \_\_\_\_\_

street &amp; number \_\_\_\_\_ telephone \_\_\_\_\_

city or town \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip code \_\_\_\_\_

**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 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 Projects (1024-0018), Washington, DC 20503.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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Metz Ice Plant  
Pike County, Pennsylvania

## Description

The Metz Ice Plant is located north of Sawkill Creek and east of U. S. Route 209 at the south end of the Borough of Milford, Pike County, Pennsylvania. The Metz Ice Plant originally served as a mill; the original millrace is located across Sawkill Creek in Dingmans Township. The mill race and ice plant are separated by a large concrete bridge that spans Sawkill Creek and is part of U. S. Route 209. Harford Street runs along the edge of the Metz Ice Plant property to the east. Township Route 426 and the Mott Street Bridge edge the parcel to the northwest. At the time that it was acquired in 1979 by the United States Government, the nominated property totaled 9.1 acres in size. The site is included within the boundary of Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and is maintained by the National Park Service. The property is currently vacant and not used by the National Park Service for any specific function.

The Metz Ice Plant property consists of a wood-framed late nineteenth century gristmill that was converted to the manufacture of ice with several concrete block additions from the early to mid-twentieth century. Equipment related to the ice manufacturing housed inside includes 3 compressors, 3 motors, a governor, a pump and a water wheel used to generate power. Also included are the original millrace located upstream and across Sawkill Creek which leads to the millpond and dam

Although the Metz Ice Plant has been substantially altered over time, these alterations do not detract from the property's integrity. Rather, they document change in use as a nineteenth century gristmill was converted to new uses reflecting economic and technological changes. The Metz Ice Plant retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

The property is described below in more detail. The description is organized according to the landscape characteristics identified in National Register Bulletin 30: *Guidelines for Documenting and Evaluating Rural Historic Landscapes*. Individual landscape features of the property are discussed within each category of landscape characteristic. The features that constitute either a contributing or non-contributing resource are indicated in bold type. Many of these features are identified by the National Park Service in their List of Classified Structures (LCS), which is a computerized, evaluated inventory of all historic and prehistoric structures having historical, architectural, or engineering significance in which the National Park Service has or plans to acquire any legal interest. Included are structures that individually meet the criteria of the National Register or are contributing elements of sites and districts that meet National Register criteria. Those features that are included on the LCS are identified by their List of Classified Structures Identification Number and Structure Number in parentheses after the feature name (IDLCS #, Structure #) indicated in bold type. Descriptions of the property's contributing resources precede descriptions of non-contributing resources.

## *Landform and Topography*

The Metz Ice Plant is located along the banks of Sawkill Creek. The parcel includes approximately 300 feet to either side of the creek between the ice plant and the Mott Street Bridge. The landform that characterizes the parcel generally slopes towards the creek, and varies from relatively level terraces to steeply-sloped embankments. The Metz Ice Plant occupies a small, relatively level terrace that is situated slightly above the creek to the east of the Route 209 Bridge.

## *Site Organization*

The Metz Ice Plant parcel is edged by the crest of the creek's northern bank to the north, Harford Street to the east; Harford Street Bridge, the creek, the Callahan House property (individually listed on the National Register 7/23/1979) and Township Route (TR) 426 to the south; and the Mott Street Bridge and TR 426 to the west. The ice plant is situated between Harford Street and the U.S. 209 Bridge. Its façade faces east toward Harford Street. A gravel access road encircles the plant in a u-shape, connecting with Harford Street to the north and south of the building. A guardrail edges a portion of Harford Street to prevent cars from driving over the steep embankment that edges the road south of the ice plant.

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## Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

Parking is accommodated northwest of the building along the margins of the gravel access road. Riprap has recently been added to the creek's bank west of the ice plant to mitigate the effects of severe flooding that occurred in the area in 1995 and to prevent further bank erosion. There is little vegetation within the immediate vicinity of the ice plant save for a single black locust tree located to the north of the building. Woodland occupies much of the remainder of the parcel.

### Contributing Resources *Buildings and Structures*

The Metz Ice Plant building (IDLCS #82296) is composed of several blocks representing both differing periods of construction and changing uses (Figure 1). The oldest portion of the building is the wood-framed, northeast or main block (Block A), constructed for use as a grist mill in 1869. This main block is one and one-half story in height with a shallow-pitched gambrel roof. Its façade faces east toward Harford Street. The main entry is centered on the east gambrel wall. This entry, which formerly contained two-leaf wood doors, is now enclosed with two plywood doors. Recently constructed dimensioned lumber steps provide access to these doors which are raised about three feet above ground level. The main entry is flanked by rectangular window frames. The windows have been enclosed with plywood panels. Centered above the main entry is a loft door. This door is also flanked by rectangular window openings. The north side wall is divided into four bays defined by boarded-over window openings. Most of these windows were originally fenestrated with nine over six, double hung sash windows, some of which remain. The roof junction is decorated with plain cornice boards and scrollsaw cut brackets. The roof is sheathed in corrugated metal plates. This block has a foundation constructed largely of stone slabs, portions of which have been either parged or mortared. One stone slab in the foundation is chiseled with a date of 1888. The first floor of the former grist mill building contains a store room which extends across the entire front portion of the building. To the rear are two spaces probably partitioned in the 1950's and used as retail space and back counter or offices. Both the store room and the two partitioned spaces have recently been refurbished with sheet rock walls and ceilings. The second story of the former mill building contains a single large unfinished storage area with plank flooring.

Two wood-framed blocks, both one story in height with raised concrete foundations, adjoin the west (rear) wall of the original block. A comparison of historic photographs indicates that the first addition (Block B) replaced an earlier one between 1903 and 1927 (see Illustrations). It is fenestrated with grouped six over six, double hung, sash windows, most of which have been boarded over with plywood. Its foundation has openings in its lower wall, now enclosed, and the block is sheathed in German siding. Inside this block are located a storage area, the control room for the former ice plant, and a bathroom.

The second addition (Block C) extends across part of the width of the rear wall of the first addition and its west end is marked by a truncated gable. Openings included square windows and six over six, double hung windows, both now boarded over. A metal pipe, formerly used to convey water to an enclosed water wheel, protrudes from the upper section of the rear wall. This block is also sheathed in German siding. The eaves of both blocks are marked by exposed rafter tails. Their roofs are sheathed in asphalt shingles, and a concrete block chimney projects from the roof ridge of the second block. Inside this addition is located a steel overshot waterwheel, 26 feet in diameter and five feet wide, which is connected to a laminated wooden wheel approximately 12 feet in diameter, fitted with V-belts. This second rear addition was added in 1956 to house the water wheel and protect it from ice formation.

The remaining additions (Blocks D – H), of concrete block construction, were built between 1927 and 1950, following August Metz, Jr.'s acquisition of the property in 1924. They were used to accommodate the deep freezing operations. These additions are roughly T-shaped.

# National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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## Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

A single story, side gabled block (Block D) adjoins the front of the south wall of the original block of the building. A metal door is located near the center of the façade. To the left of this door is a 7-Up sign, identifying the building as Milford Ice Cold Storage. The roof junction is marked by exposed rafter tails, and the roof is sheathed in asphalt roofing material. Because of the sloping site, the basement is exposed on the rear wall this block.

The front portion of block D immediately adjacent to the original mill is a cold storage room. The rear section of this block consists of a single room with a metal catwalk along the inner wall and a concrete floor. This portion of the block contains the machinery needed to operate the ice manufacturing and cold storage plant. V-belts connect a large metal flywheel with the wooden wheel. Shafts connect the flywheel to two smaller wheels that may have been used to run two of the three Wainsboro pumps located toward the south end of the room. An electric motor is mounted beside the flywheel. The gable roofed rear extension was used as a large refrigerator room, as was the south block (Block G). A lean-to, single story block (Block E) adjoins the rear wall of the basement. This wall is fenestrated with two rectangular window openings, both boarded over, and a larger opening, probably once used as a loading dock. The roof of the lean-to is sheathed in asphalt roofing shingles.

Two additional blocks are angled from the south wall of the original block. The northern of the two blocks (Block F), one story high with a shed roof, has a lean-to sheathed in artificial log siding projecting from its east façade wall. This lean-to accommodates a raised loading door.

The south block (Block G) had a rectangular louver in the south gable end. A single-story, gabled ell with a raised concrete foundation projects from the center of the rear wall of the three concrete blocks. This block (Block H) is fenestrated with double hung windows, now boarded over. Condenser coils, mounted on concrete piers, adjoin its south wall. The gable peak is sheathed in asphalt shingles, as is the roof.

Equipment in place in the building includes three Frick compressors, a General Electric three phase, 60 cycle, 1200 rpm motor, an Ideal Electric three phase, five horsepower induction motor, a Century Repulsion Stark single five horsepower single phase motor, a Fitz governor, a Peerless pump, and a Fitz water wheel.<sup>1</sup> By the 1940's, cold storage equipment had been installed in the plant and the building was enlarged as cold storage became a major part of its business. Blocks D, E, F, and H were added. Many plants, including that operated by Metz, used cooling coils and pipes to supplement natural air circulation. In smaller installations these pipes were arranged along the walls and ceilings.<sup>2</sup>

The **dam** is a concrete structure 12' in height approximately 90' wide across Saw Creek. It lies some distance upstream from the Ice Plant, just below the steel girder bridge (Mott Street Bridge). The **millrace** runs from the dam, along the south bank of Sawkill Creek. The millrace is on the left abutment of the dam and is controlled by a gate valve. It appears that the millrace was blasted through the ledge rock for a considerable distance downstream of the dam; it appears that most of the length of the millrace was dug (where possible). The millrace traversed Sawkill Creek via a 36" steel pipe supported by A frame type of steel structures. The millrace ends at a concrete and stone retaining wall, which has a pipe leading towards the creek. This is the penstock or flume remnant,

The **penstock or flume (LCS Shadow 082295, Structure No. P12523A)** carried water from the hillside above the stream down to the ice factory. Remnants include a 2' diameter metal pipe set in a stone and concrete wall and a poured in place concrete pad w/ pieces of metal legs that supported the pipe. You can also still see part of the pipe sticking out of the back of the ice plant. The remnants of the penstock are important because they provide evidence of the mechanism used to operate the water powered machinery at the Metz Ice Plant site.

<sup>1</sup> Rowland T. Bowers, Associate Director, Cultural Resources, National Park Service, to Acting Superintendent, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area. Attachment to undated memorandum in files of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area.

<sup>2</sup> H.J. MacIntire, *Mechanical Refrigeration: A Treatise for Technical Students and Engineers* (New York: John Wiley & Sons, Inc. 1914), 204.

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### Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

#### *Views and Vistas*

Because of the varied and sometimes steeply sloped terrain of the parcel, the curvilinear nature of the stream corridor in this area, and the extent of woodland cover, log views within and from the site are limited. One of the major components of the Metz Ice Plant view shed is the U.S. Route 209 Bridge. It was constructed in 1939. A circa 1940's photograph of the structure (Figure 2) indicates the historic relationship between the bridge's arch and the metal flume or pipe that ran from the millrace, across Sawkill Creek, to the Metz Ice Plant complex. The large concrete span associated with the bridge dominates the space adjacent to the ice plant. It frames views to the steeply sloped bank to the south of the creek and the nearby Callahan House, which once may have been owned concurrently with the ice plant parcel. Otherwise, views from the structure are limited; Harford Street, which is elevated above the ice plant, blocks views from the ice plant to the south and east, and a projecting ridge blocks views from the ice plant to the north and west.

#### *Vegetation*

The majority of the parcel is wooded. Woodland occupies the slopes of both banks of the creek. The woodland on the creek's southern bank is dominated by hemlocks, rhododendron, maples and sycamore, while the woodland on the creek's northern bank is composed of a young stand of predominantly deciduous successional species. In the vicinity of the ice plant, the vegetation is limited to some pioneer trees and shrubs, such as the black locust tree located to the northwest of the structure.

#### *Circulation Systems*

The parcel is edged by Harford Street, TR 426, and traversed by U.S. 209. Each of these roads includes a bridge that spans Sawkill Creek. Within the parcel, circulation consists of a u-shaped gravel access road leading to the Metz Ice Plant from Harford Street, and a hard packed earth road trace that parallels the millrace to the south of Sawkill Creek. These two roads are contributing structures of the Metz Ice Plant landscape.

#### *Response to the Natural Environment*

The Metz Ice Plant is located within the floodplain of Sawkill Creek. The area west of the structure has been adversely affected by the periodic flooding of the creek. Riprap was recently added to the creek's northern bank beneath the U.S. Route 209 Bridge to mitigate the effects of severe flooding that occurred in the area in 1995 and to prevent further bank erosion.

The siting of the original structure, used as it was for milling, was based on a relationship between the building, the millrace, and a dam constructed upstream that channeled water into the millrace. The millrace and the mill were built on opposite sides of the creek, and a flue was constructed to carry water from the millrace to the mill. A stone abutment associated with the flume still exists on site. The reason for this unusual arrangement appears to relate to the configuration of the banks of Sawkill Creek. The southern bank appears to have been better suited topographically to the construction of a millrace because of its gently sloping terrace set above a steeply sloped embankment and the creek's floodplain. The northern bank is comprised of a relatively level terrace located within the creek's floodplain which would have been subject to periodic destructive flooding.

The site also includes the remains of what appears to have been a tailrace associated with the mill. Water carried underground daylights into a concrete channel located downstream from the ice plant structure and eventually flows into the creek. During the site's milling history, therefore, various feats of engineering were undertaken to harness the power of the water moving along Sawkill Creek towards the Delaware River, and there was a direct relationship between the siting of mill structures and features and the natural environment. The remaining fabric of these structures, the dam, millrace and the penstock or flume are contributing features of the Metz Ice Plant landscape. What appears to be the tailrace is not included but is located on an adjacent tract.



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**Metz Ice Plant**  
**Pike County, Pennsylvania**

### *Land Uses*

The Metz Ice Plant property is currently not used by the National Park Service for any specific function and can be characterized as undeveloped open space. The historic, cultural, and natural resources associated with it, however, continue to be maintained and preserved by the National Park Service.

### *Boundary Demarcations*

The boundaries of portions of the property are clearly defined by abutting road corridors, namely Harford Street to the east and TR 426 to the southwest and west. The remainder of the parcel's southern boundary is shared with the Callahan House property, and there are ice plant parcel. Otherwise, views from the structure are limited; Harford Street, which is elevated above the ice plant, blocks views from the ice plant to the south and east, and a projecting ridge blocks views from the ice plant to the north and west.

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Metz Ice Plant  
Pike County, Pennsylvania

### *Statement of Significance*

The Metz Ice Plant, the original portion of which was built in 1869 as a water powered gristmill, is significant both as a remaining water-powered industrial building within the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and for its later use as a small scale, self-contained, ice making and refrigeration plant. After small-scale Eastern grist mills became unprofitable as a result of competition from the grain belt producers of the Midwest, the building was converted to new uses to take advantage of the need for a year-round supply of ice for residential and commercial refrigeration. It was subsequently expanded to provide commercial cold storage services for commercial clients such as Upper Delaware Valley hotels and boarding houses. Although no longer in active use, the Metz Ice Plant is the only intact water-powered industrial structure in the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and was the only manufactured ice plant in the Upper Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania north of the Lehigh Valley. The building meets National Register Criterion A as an example of water-powered industry, an important facet of the history of nineteenth and twentieth century Milford and the Delaware Water Gap region. The period of significance chosen for the property begins when the original portion of the building was constructed around 1869 and concludes in 1954. The ending date reflects the continued use of the property and excludes application of the criterion for exceptional importance.<sup>3</sup>

### *Historical Background*

The Metz Ice Plant is significant for its long and varied history as a processing site and manufacturing facility. The property has been used to process raw materials, including lumber and grain. Wheels, spokes, jelly, and apple cider were manufactured on the site for periods of time. The building was also used as a generator of electricity for the building itself and nearby dwellings. Although a mill stood on the present site of the Metz Ice Plant since at least 1750, the oldest section of the present building dates from 1869 when it was constructed as a water-powered gristmill operation. In the 1920's the property was converted into a facility for the manufacture of ice and commercial refrigeration and later for cold storage. Its final use prior to Federal Government acquisition in 1979 was for cold storage and retail sales.

The property now referred to as the Metz Ice Plant is located along Sawkill Creek, a stream corridor that has been the location of various mill sites since the mid-eighteenth century. Nineteenth century milling operations on the site of the Metz Ice Plant are thought to have been powered by harnessing the water power of Sawkill Creek with a dam and millrace system. The millrace, which is still extant, parallels the creek to a point opposite the Callahan House where water was piped across the creek to a large waterwheel located at the ice plant. The piping structure is no longer extant. A channelized section of the creek is located downstream from the Metz Ice Plant, and this may have been the mill's tailrace.

The location of the Metz Ice Plant is known as the Lower Dam, one of three dam sites along Sawkill Creek in the vicinity of the village of Milford. The area around the Metz Ice Plant was first developed by three Wells brothers from Connecticut around 1750. They constructed a saw and a grist mill at this location to take advantage of the abundant water power and a nearby ford across the Delaware River. The area became known as "Mill on the Ford" or Milford and was the site of the original settlement of the town. Harford Street, which runs in front of the plant, was the original alignment of Route 209 or River Road from Milford to Stroudsburg. The other two sites were the Lower Broad Street Dam, located in the glen at the foot of Broad Street, Milford's main north-south thoroughfare, and the Upper Dam, located at the mouth of the Vantine Creek. Of the other two sites, the Jervis Gordon Gristmill constructed in 1882 remains at the Upper Dam. It was listed on the National Register of Historic Places in December 1985. This mill has been partially restored and retains much of its original milling machinery. It has been converted into a restaurant and shops. Unlike the Metz Ice Plant, this mill adapted to changing times by turning out animal feed until the 1950's when milling operation ceased and providing adjunct blacksmith

<sup>3</sup> A Preliminary Historic Resource Study for Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, prepared by A. Berle Clemenson of the National Park Service in September 1996, includes more detailed information regarding the historic contexts associated with the region: agriculture, recreation and industry. The Metz Ice Plant property has been evaluated within the industry context.

## National Register of Historic Places Continuation Sheet

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### Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

and machine shops for the local farmers. Its later adaptation for retail shops and a restaurant have compromised the integrity of the structure.

In 1793, Samuel C. Seeley, also from Connecticut, purchased 95 acres of land from Israel Wells which included the flats where the Metz Ice House is located. An early map of Pennsylvania by Reading Howell published in 1792 has a symbol for a mill at this location. In addition, a Plan for Milford by of about the same date show the presence of two grist mills and two saw mills fed from the lower pond. The latter plan was drawn up by John Biddis who laid out the town of Milford in 1793 and purchased the land for the town. Soon thereafter Seeley lost his property. Biddis saw the potential of the mill to bring commerce to the newly laid out town and purchased the property. It remained in the Biddis family for three generations.<sup>4</sup>

In 1858, Peter DeWitt sold two tracts totaling 31 acres and 75 perches that reached to the confluence of Sawkill Creek and the Delaware River, to John C. Mott for \$6,000 (Figure 6). Included in this transaction was the privilege of the flowing "upper dam"<sup>5</sup> on Saw Creek and rights on a portion of the creek itself.<sup>6</sup> During Mott's ownership, a grist mill and a saw mill were located on the property. Unfortunately, no trace of these early mills remains on the property. Repeated flooding of this low flat area along the Saw Creek have obliterated much of the archeological evidence.

In 1868, John C. Mott and his wife Lizzie R. sold a 5 acre and 42 perch portion of land on which the grist mill was located to Jacob Klaer, Sr. for \$7,500. The tract included the Virginia Kidd property across the street. That house appears to originally date to that period and may have been built by Klaer as his home. Mott retained ownership of the land on which the saw mill stood. This transaction included all right to the use of water from the race and dam belonging to Mott sufficient to run a grist mill on the premises for the purpose of propelling or running machinery. In exchange, Klaer agreed to pay two-thirds of the cost of maintaining and repairing the mill dam known as the Lower Dam. Mott retained ownership of the land on which the saw mill stood.<sup>7</sup> The Klaers operated a father and son business. Jacob Klaer, Sr. was born in Germany in 1818. He married Anna M. Huhn, also from Germany. Before coming to Milford, he worked as a wheelwright at Quimby's Coach Works in Newark, New Jersey. In 1858, he bought and renovated an old woolen mill on the Sawkill, which had been built by John Biddis. Klaer used the structure for his business of building and selling spokes and hubs. His business prospered, and he bought the adjoining grist mill in 1868. The grist mill burned later that year, although the hub and spoke mill survived. Local newspaper advertisements indicate that he rebuilt the grist mill in 1869, the building which is the original section of the Metz Ice Plant. The millrace that exists along the opposite bank of Sawkill Creek from the Metz Ice Plant was constructed during Klaer's ownership of the property. It is thought to have been cut through solid rock in places. A single, wooden flume carried water from the millrace, across Sawkill Creek to both the hub and spoke and grist mills. The flume is said to have been 40 inches in diameter and 150 feet long with supports anchored in the stream bed.<sup>8</sup>

By 1883, Jacob and Anna Klaer had moved to Coleville, Sussex County, New Jersey. They sold the property on which the grist mill was located to their son, Jacob Klaer, Jr. for \$8,500.<sup>9</sup> Prior to purchasing his father's milling interests, Jacob Klaer had operated his own spoke and hub shop in Bushkill for five years. Jacob Klaer, Jr. was also active in community affairs as a member of the borough council, Chief of the Fire Department, Superintendent of the Water Works, School Director, Director of the National Bank of Port Jervis, Justice of the Peace and Associate Judge of the Pike County Courts.<sup>10</sup>

<sup>4</sup> Ted Pallis, "Historical Documentation for the Metz Ice Plant," February 23, 1995, p. 4-5.

<sup>5</sup> This is the dam referred to elsewhere as the Lower Dam.

<sup>6</sup> Pike County Deed Book 22:483, June 1, 1858.

<sup>7</sup> Pike County Deed Book 28:16, April 1, 1868.

<sup>8</sup> William F. Henn, *The Mills of Milford* (Milford, PA: Pike County Dispatch, 1968), 15.

<sup>9</sup> Pike County Deed Book 40:312, July 23, 1883.

<sup>10</sup> *Milford Dispatch and Pike County Press*, Thursday, July 23, 1942. "Milford Loses Its Oldest Resident", p.1.

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### Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

Four years later, in 1887, the younger Klaer sold the property to Jacob C. Hornbeck of Montague, New Jersey for \$4,250.<sup>11</sup> Jacob Hornbeck, who owned the mill property for three years, was a farmer in Montague Township and rented out the mill property. He may have sold the Milford mill after inheriting a grist mill in Montague that had belonged to his father.

In 1890, Hornbeck sold the property to William T. Struble for \$4,500<sup>12</sup> Struble was born in Montague, New Jersey in 1858. He began his adult life working as a store clerk in Hainesville, New Jersey. He then purchased the Mountain House Hotel in Beemerville, New Jersey and worked for a time as an innkeeper. Beginning in 1888, he rented the grist mill from Hornbeck, paying \$475 in rent the first year and \$450 the second year. In 1899, the tax records for Milford include mention of the mill, cider mill, barn and house. In 1903, a devastating flood struck the area, and the mill was damaged. As a result of both this flood and changing technology, Struble's patronage declined sharply, and he lost ownership of the mill property.<sup>13</sup> After Struble was unable to meet his financial obligations on the property, George Gregory, Pike County Sheriff, sold the property to Edward B. LaBar at public auction for \$3,000.<sup>14</sup>

Four years later, LaBar and his wife Grace, of Matamoras, Pennsylvania, sold two tracts, the second of which measured 5 acres and 42 perches, to W. N. Tuscano for the token sum of five dollars.<sup>15</sup> In 1921, W. N. Tuscano sold the same two tracts to Alfred Tuscano for five dollars.<sup>16</sup> W. N. Tuscano and his son Alfred shut down the milling operations and began to use the building for the manufacture of jelly made from grapes raised on several farms they owned in Milford Township. The finished jellies were marketed under the name of "Sunny Glen Farm". Although the grapes used were of fine stock, they did not jell naturally. Unfamiliarity with the specialized production process raised insurmountable obstacles, and the Tuscano's left the business.<sup>17</sup>

In August 1924, Alfred H. and Katherine Tuscano sold the same property to August Metz, Jr. for \$1,500 along with the right of using water from the race formerly belonging to John C. Mott as long as it was repaired and kept in good order.<sup>18</sup> Metz was the son of August Metz, who, together with his brother John, had come to Milford in the late nineteenth century to build and operate the Grand View Hotel near Sawkill Glen. The hotel was destroyed by fire in the early 1900's. The appearance of the mill building shortly after Metz's purchase of it is shown in an illustration in William Henn's *The Mills of Milford*. At that time, the building consisted of the original, gambrel-roofed block with a lean-to ell on a raised concrete foundation attached to its rear wall. This block was fenestrated with ribbons of six over six, double hung sash windows. The metal water wheel was located behind the lean-to, and a cylindrical, spirally-wound 30 inch welded steel flume provided water for it. The wheel was later enclosed around 1957 to eliminate ice formation.

August Metz, Jr. was born in Milford in 1902 and died in 1973. He operated various enterprises in the mill building from ice making to cold storage to grocery sales. Metz, a forward thinking businessman, realized that the era of the small grist mill was over. Flour and feed, much of which came from the Midwest, could be bought anywhere for reasonable prices. Mechanical ice plants were becoming more popular as a less expensive alternative to cutting ice from ponds. Recognizing the abundance of pure water and cheap power, between his purchase in 1924 and 1930, he renovated the mill for the first artificial ice plant in the area. As part of these

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<sup>11</sup> Pike County Deed Book 43:603, October 26, 1887.

<sup>12</sup> Pike County Deed Book 46:634, June 30, 1890.

<sup>13</sup> Ted Pallis, "Historical Documentation for the Metz Ice Plant," February 23, 1995. Document on file at the Historian's office, Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania.

<sup>14</sup> Pike County Deed 65:386, September 25, 1911.

<sup>15</sup> Pike County Deed book 68:368, April 1, 1915.

<sup>16</sup> Pike County Deed Book 73:330, September 15, 1921.

<sup>17</sup> Henn, 20.

<sup>18</sup> Pike County Deed Book 77:295, August 13, 1924.

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### Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

renovations, he installed an efficient overshot wheel as well as a steel penstock which brought in water from the Sawkill Pond, five miles upstream..

He also added a new refrigeration plant where 300 pound cakes of ice could be frozen at once. Insulation was installed in the old grist mill building, and ice was stored inside. As much as twenty tons of ice were sold per day. Cold storage rooms were constructed to store meat and produce for local hotels and restaurants.<sup>19</sup> The water wheel also powered an electric dynamo for auxiliary power and lighting. By 1932, Metz was listed in Milford Borough tax records as an "ice manager".<sup>20</sup> Metz went on to represent Pike County in Pennsylvania House of Representatives at Harrisburg from 1948 to 1956.<sup>21</sup>

After Metz's death in 1977, ownership passed to Thelma, his widow, for the token sum of one dollar.<sup>22</sup> The same month, Thelma Metz sold three tracts, one of 17,750 square feet, and the third of 9.2 acres, to August Metz III and Susan Metz.<sup>23</sup> Two years later, the U. S. Government acquired the land for \$180,000 as part of the proposed Tocks Island Dam project.<sup>24</sup> After plans for the dam were dropped in the face of fiscal austerity and public opposition, the property, as well as the rest of the land acquired, became the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, administered by the National Park Service.

Commercial ice production became an important facet of the Pocono economy in the late nineteenth century. Until the pre-World War II era, as many as a hundred railroad cars at a time, filled with natural ice were shipped from Monroe County to large cities on the eastern seaboard. These cars, part of Delaware, Lackawanna, and Western Railroad trains, carried ice harvested from huge ice houses on the shores of the region's ice ponds and lakes. In 1896 the New York, Susquehanna, and Western Railroad built a branch line called the Wilkes-Barre and Eastern, which also carried ice to the Philadelphia market. Pocono lakes from which ice was harvested included Pocono Lake, Lake Naomi, Stillwater Lake, Lynchwood Lake, Pocono Summit, Brady's Lake, Tobyhanna Lakes 1 and 2, and Gouldsboro, Warnerstown and Saylor lakes. In addition, smaller ponds and lakes provided ice for local consumption.<sup>25</sup>

The largest producer of natural ice in the northeastern United States was the Mountain Ice Company with its main office in Hoboken, New Jersey. This company operated the following plants in the Pocono region: New Jersey Plant, Coolbaugh Township (6,400 tonnage); Stillwater Plant, Tobyhanna Township (42,000 tonnage); Pocono Lake Plant No. 1 (34,000 tonnage); Pocono Lake Plant No. 2 (31,400 tonnage); and Tobyhanna Plant, Coolbaugh Township (14,000 tonnage).<sup>26</sup> This ice industry was, of course, dependent on weather conditions. A warm spell could severely deplete the company's stock of ice. The alternative was mechanical manufacture of ice.

Manufactured ice production was concentrated in major cities of the northern United States. For example, in 1928, a total of 29 manufactured ice companies operated in Pittsburgh. Individual ice companies in that city employed up to 342 people. Smaller metropolitan areas such as the Lehigh Valley also boasted several manufactured ice companies. Few companies were located in small towns and rural areas. The dearth of such companies may be attributed to one major factor. The demand for manufactured ice was insufficient to support the capital investment needed to equip and operate a manufactured ice plant. Many farms and rural properties had their own pond and their own ice house, and those that did not could purchase ice from their neighbors. These communities had little need for an eternal source of ice.

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<sup>19</sup> Henn, 21.

<sup>20</sup> As cited in Pallis, 13.

<sup>21</sup> Henn, 20.

<sup>22</sup> Pike County Deed Book 588:126, May 23, 1977.

<sup>23</sup> Pike County Deed Book 588:278, May 27, 1977.

<sup>24</sup> Pike County Deed Book 682:55, August 30, 1979.

<sup>25</sup> Monroe County, *Monroe County Sesquicentennial, 1836-1986* (Stroudsburg, PA: County of Monroe, 1986), 84.

<sup>26</sup> Monroe County, 85.

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## Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

The Upper Delaware Valley was an exception. The numerous resorts in Pike and adjacent counties provided a large demand for ice, demand that could not be completely met from one-site ice ponds. This demand was able to be satisfied by a commercial ice plant. When it was established, the Metz Ice Plant, originally known as the Milford Ice and Refrigeration Company, was the only manufactured ice plant in Pike, Wayne, and Monroe counties. In 1928, it had a total of three employees. For most of the rest of its history, it was a one-man operation. At the time of the First World War, most domestic and commercial refrigeration, especially in urban areas, was dependent on ice produced in ice plants. Two innovations were common to the most up-to-date ice plants of this era. First, electricity replaced steam as the primary source of ice plant power. The principal reason for the shift was the general adoption of the raw water system that did away with the necessity of having large quantities of exhaust steam to condense into distilled water. Once distilled water was no longer required, electric power proved cheaper than steam. Electric motors initially cost less, occupied less space, required less labor, and cost less to operate. The electric drive provided more latitude in the choice of locations. A factory powered by electricity did not require a railroad siding for coal delivery.<sup>27</sup>

By the 1930's a second innovation was introduced, automatic ice machines. These units were capable not only of rapid production of the usual three hundred pound cakes of ice but also of small flakes or cylinders. They occupied only a small part of the area required by can-ice plants of equal capacity, required less labor, and turned out ice in small sizes more economically than it could be made by freezing and crushing large blocks.

Despite these advances, the ice making industry faced difficulties. One factor was that ice was expensive in the mind of the consumer. High charges prevailed because of high distribution costs and because sufficient money had to be made during the summer to pay fixed costs during the off-season. Since it melted and had to be replaced, ice made the consumer dependent upon the visits of the deliveryman.<sup>28</sup>

Beginning in the 1920's, the domestic refrigerating machine won widespread acceptance and began to supplant the ice refrigerator. Only 5,000 units were sold in 1921, but by 1930, the mechanical refrigerator established sales supremacy over the ice refrigerator. A total of 850,000 units were sold in that year. By 1944, almost seventy percent of the American homes that had refrigerators had mechanical refrigerators. This increase in popularity resulted in large part from a decrease in cost. In 1920, the average refrigerator cost \$600. By 1940, the cost had been reduced to \$154.<sup>29</sup>

The refrigerating machine did not win acceptance as quickly in the commercial market. Beginning in the 1930's, the small machine found a variety of uses in establishments that retailed food and drink, though there still remained many roles such as the cooling of display cases for which ice retained its supremacy. To maintain its business share in the commercial field, the ice-making industry pushed the sale of processed ice. Cubes sawed from large cakes were sold to drink-dispensing establishments.<sup>30</sup> The state of the ice-making industry was reflected in its annual tonnage statistics. In 1920 thirty-three million tons were sold. The tonnage reached its all time peak in 1931 when 57 million tons were sold. By 1950, the total tonnage sold had dropped to 34 million.<sup>31</sup>

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<sup>27</sup> Oscar Edward Anderson, Jr., *Refrigeration in America: A History of a New Technology and Its Impact* (Princeton: Princeton University Press, 1953; reprinted, Port Washington, N.Y.: Kennikat Press, 1972), 208.

<sup>28</sup> Anderson, 209.

<sup>29</sup> Anderson, 214.

<sup>30</sup> Anderson, 219.

<sup>31</sup> Anderson, 220.

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### Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

As ice-making decreased in importance, some operators like August Metz, Jr., changed their emphasis to operation of cold storage warehouses. These were generally fireproof structures built largely of concrete. A number of differing kinds of insulation were used, but the board type, composed of cork, glass or rock fibers, became the most common. The Metz plant used cork insulation. The most effective warehouses used a "curtain wall," and outer shell entirely independent from the rest of the building. To its inner face some material such as cork board was applied so that the entire storehouse was enclosed by an unbroken sheath of insulation.<sup>32</sup>

The cooling equipment most generally used was two-stage ammonia compression. For distributing refrigeration to the actual storage rooms, the brine circulation method predominated in the 1920's and 1930's.

Operation of a cold-storage warehouse required more than simply maintaining low temperatures. Maintenance of proper relative humidity was a major issue. Too much moisture created an environment conducive to the rapid growth of molds and bacteria. Too little moisture resulted in desiccation of the products stored. Initially, often crude methods of increasing relative humidity were used. Floors were sprinkled, wet blankets were suspended, or low-pressure steam was blown in. These were supplanted in part by reduction of the temperature differential between the air of the storage area and the refrigerating surfaces and the introduction of moisture by means of mist nozzles. Forced air circulation became a feature of most modern cold-storage plants designed to ensure air purity.

Initially, the public was skeptical about cold storage warehouses. The basis of the skepticism was in part a lingering prejudice against refrigeration as a means of food preservation.<sup>33</sup> Between 1923 and 1931, almost 120 million cubic feet were added to the capacity of public warehouses. The edibles kept in cold storage in the greatest volumes were generally meats, fish, fruits, eggs, poultry, and dairy products.

The Metz Ice Plant was begun as an ice manufacturing and refrigeration company. In its first years, it was the only manufactured ice plant north of Northampton County in the Upper Delaware Valley of Pennsylvania. In later years, single manufactured ice plants were opened in Maplewood, Wayne County, and Stroudsburg, Monroe County, but both were short lived. By 1938, the Milford Ice and Refrigeration Company had changed its name to the Milford Ice Plant, and by 1947, it was listed under its owner August Metz, Jr. As the demand for manufactured ice lessened in response to the popularity of mechanical refrigerators, Metz expanded the plant to include cold storage facilities. By 1959, the plant was no longer in operation,<sup>34</sup> and for the last years of his ownership, Metz continued to use the concrete additions for cold storage and used the original wood-framed mill building as a store.

Although the Metz Ice Plant has been substantially altered over time, these alterations do not detract from the property's integrity. Rather, they document change in use as a nineteenth century gristmill was converted to new uses reflecting economic and technological changes. The Metz Ice Plant retains integrity of location, design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling, and association.

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<sup>32</sup> Anderson, 232.

<sup>33</sup> Anderson, 239.

<sup>34</sup> *Pennsylvania Industrial Directory*, various years.

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Pike County, Pennsylvania

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Pike County, Pennsylvania

## Verbal Boundary Description

The nominated property includes all of Tract 12523 of the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area located in Milford Borough and Dingman Township, Pike County, Pennsylvania.

## Boundary Justification

Tract 12523 encompasses all features that contribute to the significance of the property.

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**Metz Ice Plant**  
**Pike County, Pennsylvania**

**Photographic Captions:**

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
6. Harford Street bridge, looking southeast
7. #1

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. November 1996
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. Route 209 bridge.
7. #2

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. November 1996
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. Sawkill Creek below the Metz Ice Plant, waterway to left in photograph includes remnants of a concrete channel that may have served as the tailrace of the mill complex.
7. #3

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. Road trace parallel to Saw Creek. Looking northwest.
7. #5

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. A remnant spillway and millrace parallels the southern bank of the Sawkill Creek. Looking southeast.
7. #6

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## Metz Ice Plant Pike County, Pennsylvania

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. The millrace terminates at a dam upstream from the ice plant. Looking northwest.
7. #7

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. Exterior, East façade and north elevation, original mill block. Looking southwest.
7. #8

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. West elevation showing water wheel enclosure. Note entry point of former flume in upper section of wall. Later concrete additions at right. Looking northeast.
7. #9

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. Tool shop to rear of original mill block. Looking northwest.
7. #10

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area, Bushkill, Pennsylvania
6. Cold Storage vault door. Note width of door and cooling pipes extending across ceiling.
7. #11

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**Metz Ice Plant**  
**Pike County, Pennsylvania**

1. Metz Ice Plant
2. Pike County, Pennsylvania
3. Susan Kopczynski
4. September 2006
5. Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area
6. Interior view of machinery room
7. #12