

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 National Register Bulletin, *How to Complete the National Register of Historic Places Registration Form*. 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 certification comments, entries, and narrative items on continuation sheets if needed (NPS Form 10-900a).

1. Name of Property

historic name Bellemonte Silk Mill

other names/site Welwood Silk Mill / Sherman Underwear Mills

number _____

2. Location

street & 230 Welwood Avenue

number _____

city or Hawley

town _____

state Pennsylvania code PA county Wayne code 127 zip code 18428

not for
publication
 vicinity

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 at the following level(s) of significance:

national statewide local

Andrew J. Madorsky
Signature of certifying official

April 26, 2010
Date

Title

PA Historical & Museum Commission
State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

In my opinion, the property ___ meets ___ does not meet the National Register criteria.

Signature of commenting official

Date

Title

State or Federal agency/bureau or Tribal Government

4. National Park Service Certification

I, hereby, certify that this property is:

- entered in the National Register
- determined eligible for the National Register
- determined not eligible for the National Register
- removed from the National Register
- other (explain): _____

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

5. Classification

Ownership of Property
(Check as many boxes as apply)

Category of Property
(Check only one box)

Number of Resources within Property
(Do not include previously listed resources in the count.)

- private
- public - Local
- public - State
- public - Federal

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

Contributing	Non-contributing	
2	1	buildings
		district
		site
		structure
		object
2	1	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

N/A

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

INDUSTRY/PROCESSING/EXTRACTION

Manufacturing facility

Current Functions

(Enter categories from instructions)

WORK IN PROGRESS

COMMERCE/TRADE / business

7. Description

Architectural Classification

(Enter categories from Instructions)

LATE VICTORIAN / Gothic

Materials

(Enter categories from Instructions)

foundatin: STONE

walls STONE

BRICK

roof: ASPHALT

other

Narrative Description

Summary Paragraph

The Bellefonte Silk Mill was constructed during 1880-1881 and rebuilt in nearly the identical design in 1894 following a disastrous fire. The Bellefonte forms a striking if somewhat austere example of the High Victorian Gothic architectural style expressed dramatically in its castellated roof parapet. The building is long and narrow in plan, aligned north to south and oriented facing toward the west and Welwood Avenue. A front pavilion wing is positioned on the west elevation projecting from the center of the building. The overall building is three stories in height but is placed on an embanked site so that a total of five levels or stories, including the two floor levels of the basement, are exposed on the north end façade of the building. The shed roof slopes downward toward the east of the building. The stone walls of are laid up in coursed rubble local bluestone on all four elevations. The floor framing combines vertical iron posts with horizontal iron girders and wooden joists while exposed wood timber trusses carry the roof. The building contains a total of five floor levels including the first, second and third floors and the two basement levels. The interior is laid out on a relatively simple plan with a single open loft space extending through the full length of the main block on each of the three upper floors. The building includes a single later addition, the engine house, which is a relatively small, one-story, shed-roofed structure built of brick likely before the turn of the 19th century when the mill converted over to steam power. The one-story, one-room stone Cocoon Building, originally constructed for silk storage, is situated across Welwood Avenue and is considered a contributing resource. A ca 1950s steel warehouse is located at the lower edge of the sloped site and is not visible form important viewsheds; the warehouse is non-contributing.

Narrative Description

Introduction

The Bellefonte Silk Mill is located at 230 Welwood Avenue on a tract of approximately 3 acres that is situated just within the southeastern fringe of the Borough of Hawley in southern Wayne County, Pennsylvania (Photos 1-6 and 14-15). The building, reputed to be one of the the largest buildings constructed of the bluestone for which this area of northeastern Pennsylvania is noted, rises from the west bank of the falls of the Wallenpaupack Creek, the watercourse from which the mill apparatus originally derived its power.

The building measures 360 feet in length by 44 feet in depth and is oriented facing toward the west and the public roadway (Welwood Avenue). A front pavilion wing contains the main entrance and is positioned on the west elevation projecting from the center of the building. The pavilion, which rises about 8 feet above the rest of the structure, extends forward from the main block by 23 feet and measures 80 feet on its north-south axis.

The stone walls are laid up in coursed rubble and are penetrated by numerous evenly spaced windows providing light to the interior. The small one-story stone Cocoon Building is sited directly opposite the main entrance to the mill.

Setting

The general setting of the Bellemonte Mill consists of the suburban fringe of a small town, with the mill poised on the western bank of the Wallenpaupack Creek's steeply sloping ravine. To the east of the creek rises the northwestern slope of thickly forested Buckhorn Mountain. Just to the northeast of the Bellemonte and also standing on the east edge of the Wallenpaupack is another industrial building of similar date and architectural character, the O'Connor Glass Factory, built in 1890 and placed on the National Register in 2005. To the north and downslope from the Bellemonte Mill, the adjacent area is a low density residential district of relatively modest homes along the south bank of the Lackawaxen River. The neighborhood is shaded by mature tree cover and consists of two- and two-and-a-half-story frame buildings dating to the period ca. 1880 to 1930 and representing Queen Anne and other vernacular styles. Approximately 200 feet to the west of the Bellemonte property is the US Route 6 highway, lined with a few modern commercial properties and mid-twentieth-century dwellings. The built-up historic town center of Hawley is located about two-thirds of a mile to the northwest of the mill. In general, the immediate environment of the Bellemonte property retains its historic character, with no prominent visual modern intrusions.

The Bellemonte Mill tract straddles Welwood Avenue with the main mill building situated on the east side of the gently curving street and the Cocoon building on the west. The remainder of that lot is occupied by gravel driveway and parking areas (Photos 4 and 6). Gravel driveway and parking areas also compose the areas to the southwest and north of the mill building. The road surface for Welwood Avenue is carried on a raised berm that is supported by a stone masonry retaining wall. The road berm contributes to the rise in the grade along the west side or front of the mill which helps to obscure the basement levels for most of the building's west elevation. Historic photos suggest that this raised configuration for Welwood Avenue has been in existence throughout the mill's history. The modern steel warehouse is located to the northwest of the historic resources below a steep embankment so that it is not visible from most vantage points. The creek bank area along the east side of the mill is composed of rocky, steeply sloping terrain that is largely overgrown with shrubs, saplings and tall grass.

Front or west elevation

The primary or west façade of the mill comprises a total of forty-one opening bays with the central entry pavilion holding nine bays and the north and south segments of the west wall each organized as sixteen bays (see Photos 1 and 2). The mill is set back by an interval of just five feet from the edge of the street. Because the grade rises fairly steeply from north to south, five floor levels are visible at the far north end of the building, four stories for most of the north façade, and three stories on the central pavilion. Only the two uppermost stories of the south façade are fully visible as the first story is partially obscured by the embankment.

The central pavilion contains the main entry bay adorned with oversized windows and the decorative panels commemorating the mill's name and construction dates. (See Photos 3 and 4). Three belt courses embellish the pavilion wall, including one at the bottom of the first story that serves as a water table, one at the top of the first story, and the last one above the third story. The center bay holds a modern double-leaf main entry surmounted by an original transom fitted with a pair of ornate elliptical lights set in a wooden fascia. A tripartate window is positioned over the entry. The opening is topped by a stone pediment with two two dates inscribed—"1880" and in smaller figures above, "1894," dating the inception of the mill's construction and its reconstruction following a fire (Photo 7). The third story of the center bay holds another triple window, this one surmounted by a rectangular marble panel inscribed with BELLEMONTÉ in block letters. In the pavilion's third bay from the north, a narrow entry has been created by the conversion of a window opening.

The north wall of the elevation is sixteen bays in length and repeats the pavilion belt course detail except that it lacks the belt course over the third story. The upper basement level has a double-leaf entry in the eighth bay from the north end. This entry opens onto a concrete loading dock that extends across the portion of the wall from the sixth through the thirteenth bay and fills the space between the building's wall and the retaining wall for the road berm. The loading dock and its entry are alterations as evidenced by the surviving lintel for the former window opening. For the upper basement level, the section of the north wall segment for the fourteenth through sixteenth bays is obscured by a flat-topped concrete structure also representing an alteration to the building. The lower basement level has two bays located beneath the first and third bays of the levels above. The window on the first bay has been altered by the insertion of a smaller window within the opening. The opening beneath the third bay has been closed up with concrete block; historic photos show that it was formerly the location of a double-leaf freight entry. These photos indicate the presence of additional windows now obscured by the added concrete loading dock.

The south wall of the west elevation is sixteen bays in length and three stories tall with the first floor partially obscured from street view by the berm for the street and the property's driveway. The stone retaining wall supporting the berm stands just four feet from the wall of this portion of the building. Historic photos indicate that the level of the south end driveway has been raised several feet. This segment of the west wall repeats the belt course configuration seen on its northerly counterpart. The openings in this wall consist entirely of windows in all sixteen bays on three stories.

North elevation

On the north elevation contains five fully exposed floor levels (see Photo 2). This wall repeats the same belt course and parapet configuration found on the north and south ends of the west wall. The end wall is characterized by three evenly spaced bays with entries flanked by windows in the center bay on each level. The entries on the upper floor levels provide access to a steel fire escape. A poured concrete loading dock is located against the lower basement level. Historic photos indicate that the fire escape has been present since the early twentieth century and possibly earlier.

South elevation

Due to the grade raised grade, the south elevation has two floor exposed levels, the mill's second and third stories. (See Photo 1). The façade contains three evenly spaced bays with a double-leaf freight entry occupying the center bay on the second story. Historic photos show that this doorway is an alteration of a window opening. A frame, shed-roofed loading dock has been added against the end wall, evidently in the mid-twentieth century.

Rear or east elevation

The east façade is composed in forty evenly spaced bays, divided at the center into north and south wall segments of twenty bays each by a stone masonry tower projecting outward from the main east wall. (See Photo 5). The flat-roofed tower measures approximately 12 feet on its north-south dimension by 6 feet east-west and rises about 5 feet above the main roof. The tower has small windows on its first through third story levels on the south wall. The east wall of the main block is the only one not topped by a parapet; instead, the east edge of the shed roof overhangs the eaves of the building by about 2-3 feet. The east wall continues the belt course configuration seen on most of the building, with belt courses immediately above and below the first story. The pattern of fenestration on the east elevation is nearly uniform along the full length of the building for the first through third stories, consisting of windows in every bay with the exception of the third, eighteenth and twenty-first bays from the south end on the first story which hold entries. The doorways in the third and twenty-first

bays are original, while that in the eighteenth, sheltered by a shed-roofed concrete stoop with concrete posts and roof, is an alteration.

On the east elevation wall extends down through the two basement levels for most of the wall. The basement level of the the south wall is without openings but for the great stone arch for the headrace at the lower basement level. The archway has been filled in with brickwork. The north wall contains window openings on the upper basement level in the first through eleventh, thirteenth and sixteenth bays from the north end. The window openings from the first and third bays through the eighth bay on the lower basement level have been filled in.

Engine House Addition

The brick, one-story engine house, possibly constructed as an element in the post-fire 1894 rebuilding, is built against the east wall's north-facing side between the sixteenth through nineteenth bays from the north end at the level of the basement. The shed roofed rectangular engine house measures about 40 feet long (north-south) by 30 feet wide (east-west) and is set on a foundation of poured concrete. The common bond brick wall of the upper level is pierced with window openings surmounted by brick arches and fitted with wooden six-over-six double-hung sash. The basement entrance is on the south end wall of the engine house. A round steel chimney in the southwest corner of the engine house extends about 10 feet above the roof of the main block. This chimney occupies the location of the massive and much taller, square, brick original chimney, which was evidently replaced at some point in the mid-twentieth century.

Elevator Tower

A shed-roofed, rectangular concrete block tower housing for the freight elevator projects above the roof of the northwest corner of the building building's main block . This structure was probably added in the mid-twentieth century. It measures approximately 20 feet north-south by 15 feet east-west and it is about 12 feet in height.

Interior

The mill building contains a total of five floor levels including the first floor where the building's principal entry is located, the second and third floors, and the two basement levels . The interior is laid out on a relatively simple plan with a single open loft space extending through the full length of the main block on each of the three upper floors (Photos 8-10). The front pavilion is partitioned off from the main mill floor on the first and second floors for original lobby and office functions (Photo 11). On the third floor, the pavilion area is not separate from the main floor and forms a spacious alcove within the working area. The tower section positioned against the center of the rear or east wall contains a pair of toilet rooms on each floor from the upper basement to the third floor. The interior of the basement extends into the brick engine house which adjoins the mill building on the east. Neither basement level is fully excavated with the southern half exposed bedrock and clay. The upper basement floor occupies approximately the northernmost two-thirds of the main block's footprint; it does not extend into the front pavilion area except for a small passage and staircase.

The only stairway for the other four levels is a modern wood utilitarian stair located off-center to the north within the front pavilion block and against the west edge of the main block (Photo 12). The concrete block freight elevator shaft, apparently built about the mid-twentieth century, is located in the northwest corner of the main block and provides access between all five levels. Apart from the installation of the elevator, the overall plan has evidently seen little alteration since the mill was rebuilt following the fire of 1894.

On each floor level of the main block the floors are supported by the vertical columns. The columns are arranged in a central row extending north-south along the length of the building to create the maximum amount

of open space for the corridors running along the east and west sides of the main block where the industrial machinery was located. On the lower basement level, the support structures consist of massive stone piers measuring about 8 feet by 2 feet and spaced about 16 feet apart. From the upper basement through the second floor, the vertical supports consist of pairs of steel posts positioned about 6 feet apart at approximately 16-foot intervals for the length of the building (see Photos 8 and 9). The open side corridors flanking the row of posts are about 17 feet wide. On each level, the vertical members carry pairs of heavy iron girders extending along the main block. The girders in turn bear 4 by 16 inch wooden joists aligned east-west and positioned at intervals of about 2 feet. The joists carry sub-flooring consisting of regular width hardwood boards about 6 inches wide and aligned north-south. The floor of the upper basement level is also made of larger floorboards while the floors of the upper floors are of narrow maple boards about 2 inches wide aligned east-west.

The third floor differs from those below in that exposed wooden trusses support wood joists that are obscured by a pressed fiber ceiling panels form the roof structure. The ceiling panels appear to have replaced earlier sheathing suggesting the the joists were never intended to be seen. The trusses are installed at regular intervals but at a different interval than the window openings resulting in the unusual condition whereby many trusses are positioned directly above window openings. The trusses show significant failure as exhibited by the large checks and cracked members and have been reinforced by the installation of wood posts midway between the outer walls along the entire floor.

First Floor

On the first floor, the front pavilion area is separated from the main block loft space by an original heavy wood frame partition that is faced within the pavilion with narrow vertical board divided by a chair rail, and within the loft with plaster (see Photo 11). The walls throughout the first floor are faced with plaster with window openings characterized by gently rounded arches and jambs (see Photo 8). The ceiling within the main block consists of the underside of the sub-flooring boards overhead except within the front pavilion where the ceiling is narrow wooden board. The first-floor front pavilion area is divided into a lobby occupying the southern half with the the staircase, a short passageway and two contemporary offices in the northeast and northwest corners. The stairway is relatively ornate with a heavy, carved oak newel post at the base supporting decorative-turned balusters (see Photo 12). The lobby area has been altered by the insertion of a plasterboard partition about 8 feet high (6 feet short of the high ceiling) to set off the south end space as an additional office. A doorway with contemporary double-leaf doors opens from the lobby into the main loft area.

Second Floor

A partition similar to that on the first floor separates the front pavilion office area from the main area. The pavilion area consists of one large room including the staircase. A contemporary single-leaf doorway, flanked by sidelights, opens from the pavilion office area into the main loft area. The plaster wall finish, board ceiling, and gently round-arched window openings are similar to those on the first floor (see Photo 9).

Third Floor

The third floor is organized as one open loft space (see Photo 10). The walls are finished with plaster and the window surrounds have the site typical gently rounded arches as on the lower floors while the ceiling is composed of fiberboard panels rather than sub-flooring boards.

Upper Basement

The upper basement level includes the upper level of the added engine house that adjoins the main block on the west. It also includes a passage and utilitarian wood staircase leading to the first floor situated beneath the north end of the building's front pavilion. The majority of the main block area of this floor is organized as a single open space within the northernmost portion of the main block. The south end of the main block occupies about

a quarter of the area within the overall footprint of the building. This area is divided into the turbine pit in the southeast corner and an L-shaped open area in the southwest corner.

The turbine pit has evidently been silted in and now has several inches of dirt on the floor. (Photo 13). The south and east walls are whitewashed coursed rubble. The upper portion of the cut stone arch for the headrace is visible in the east wall. The west wall of the turbine pit is divided between a segment to the south consisting of the roughhewn bedrock from which the pit was excavated and a poured concrete structure to the north. The north wall is also constructed of poured concrete.

The L-shaped area in the southwest corner of the upper basement has a floor of poured concrete and walls of whitewashed rubble. The larger north end area of the upper basement has a floor consisting of the regular width hardwood board that composes the sub-flooring for the building's upper stories. Its west wall finish is composed of modern pine paneling and its east and north walls are finished with plaster. The window openings are topped by gently rounded arches similar to those on the floors above. There are no window openings in the portion of this floor to the south.

Lower Basement

Apart from the lower level of the engine house, the lower basement level is a single open area extending beneath the northernmost third or so of the main block. The lower basement floor is made of poured concrete and the walls are whitewashed rubble. The former window openings have been filled in with concrete block.

Cocoon Storehouse

The cocoon storehouse is a rectangular, one-story, gable-roofed structure built of rough-faced bluestone laid up as random ashlar masonry. (Photos 14 and 15). The storehouse is of unknown date but was probably constructed at some point between 1881 and ca. 1900. The relatively low, thick-walled building is oriented with its original entry on the south wall. The north wall has no fenestration, the east wall contains an added doorway topped by an original vent and the west wall is punctuated by an added opening topped by a small vent. The building is designed with the upper portion of its wall projecting beyond the plane of the lower wall. The interior of the building is organized as a single open space with floor of poured concrete and walls of whitewashed rubble (Photo 16). The roof is supported by an iron truss which in turn supports the rafters. With the exception of the two added openings and recent roof covering, the cocoon storehouse appears to have undergone few alterations since its original construction. A mid-twentieth-century warehouse to the north of the Cocoon was been taken down in recent years.

Integrity

The Bellefonte Silk Mill has undergone relatively few alterations over the decades. The alterations include the closing up of some window openings, the insertion of a few new entries, the construction of a freight elevator structure and the replacement of the brick boiler chimney with one of steel. Additionally, the replacement of wooden window sashes with contemporary aluminum units and minor subdivision of the interior for contemporary offices has taken place. However, these alterations have had minimal impact on the characteristics that make the Bellefonte Silk Mill significant as an example of an industrial mill building from the final quarter of the nineteenth century. The setting of the mill largely retains its historic character as well. The building and site preserve the spatial arrangements integral to the mill's functioning as a major industrial installation for its period in northeastern Pennsylvania.

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.
[X] 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.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

ARCHITECTURE

Period of Significance

1880-c.1900

Significant Dates

1880

1894

c.1900

Significant Person

(Complete only if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

Undefined

Architect/Builder

N/A

Criteria Considerations

(Mark "x" in all the 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 old or achieving significance within the past 50 years.

Period of Significance (justification)

The period of significance is from 1880/1894 beginning with the construction of the mill and including the reconstruction of the building after the catastrophic fire in 1894 to ca 1900 when the Cocoon Building was likely constructed.

Statement of Significance Summary Paragraph

The Bellefonte Silk Mill is eligible for the National Register of Historic Places, locally significant under Criterion C, as a good example of late 19th century industrial mill architecture that features a distinctive castellated roof parapet. Its size, stone construction (rather than brick) and High Victorian Gothic influence combine to create a significant mill building. The Cocoon Building is an unusual surviving functionally-related building that further adds to the significance of the resource.

Narrative Statement of Significance

The Bellefonte Silk Mill is an outstanding example of the industrial mill architecture of northeastern Pennsylvania during the late nineteenth century. Mills tended to embody a form that combined certain standard elements including a long, narrow footprint standing three to four stories in height containing wide unbroken expanses of floor space to house machinery and employees. Common exterior features included masonry construction and the numerous evenly-spaced windows to provide light and ventilation. The Bellefonte Silk Mill embodies typical mill design during the late nineteenth century and incorporates a High Victorian Gothic influence which is unusual in mills in NE Pennsylvania.

Developmental history/additional historic context information

Historic Context: Development of Hawley Borough

The area in and around the present town of Hawley in Wayne County was settled by European-Americans in the 1780s. The location was first known as "the Eddy" and later Paupack Eddy for its site at the place where the Wallenpaupack Creek flows into the Lackawaxen River after a relatively steep descent through a series of falls. In 1792, James Wilson, a Signer of the Declaration and an aggressive investor in industrial projects, established a water-powered mill at the future Hawley location to manufacture textiles from hemp and flax. The venture was not a success due to the comparatively slow pace of settlement in this area at that date, and it is said that within a few years the building was burned in order to obtain its iron hardware for other uses. Settlement in the area grew more rapidly during the first two decades of the 1800s. Lumbering was the principal economic occupation in the area during the early years with the cut timber being sawn at local mills and floated down the Lackawaxen and Delaware rivers.¹

The construction of the Delaware and Hudson Canal extending from Kingston, New York, on the Hudson to Honesdale on the Lackawaxen (situated about 8 miles northwest of Hawley), completed in 1829, impelled the growth of industry in Wayne County by providing improved access to the New York market and to the region at large. The Pennsylvania segment of the canal ran along the Lackawaxen, passing through the hamlet of Paupack Eddy, which began to grow as a service center for canal patrons. The Delaware & Hudson also completed its associated Gravity Railroad, extending westward from Honesdale to the Lackawanna Valley anthracite coal fields in 1829, as well. Wayne County was characterized by excellent waterpower potential due to the abundant watercourses and hilly topography. In 1847, the Pennsylvania Coal Company, under its president Irad Hawley, laid out the route for its own gravity rail line to carry anthracite from its Lackawanna fields eastward to the D&H Canal, selecting Paupack Eddy for the eastern terminus. During 1848-1850, construction of the line took place and the name of the village began a series of changes starting with Falls Port. By 1851, the name evolved through Hawleysburgh, honoring the Pennsylvania Coal executive, to simply Hawley. The role as railroad-canal junction soon resulted in a surge in growth for the community, as extensive

¹ Richard Morgan and Shirley Morgan, *The History of Hawley, Pennsylvania* (1977), 11-13.

railroad facilities were built along with a new 50-room hotel and numerous dwellings for railroad managers and employees.²

After the coming of the railroad, Hawley entered a thriving phase of industrial development lasting into the early twentieth century when entrepreneurs established several manufacturing facilities in the town. In the late 1840s and early 1850s, local businessmen erected a boatyard, a sash factory-planing mill, a gristmill, and a tannery, and, in 1869, a large buckwheat flour mill. Larger establishments began to appear in the 1880s, including silk mills, cut glass factories, and sweater factories. In 1884, Hawley was incorporated as a borough, on land taken from Palmyra Township, within which the settlement had been located since the founding of Wayne County in 1798. The state *Industrial Directory* for 1947 reported the presence of eight textile plants, with four classified under the heading of general knit goods, two under silk and rayon goods, one under men's clothing, and one, Arrow Tape Corporation, under unclassified textiles.

Historic Context: The Silk Industry in Northeastern Pennsylvania

The cultivation of silk worms and the refinement of silk into textiles formed a decidedly minor aspect of American agriculture and handcraft industry during the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries. The development of weaving silk thread and textiles commenced around 1840 and did not gather the momentum for growth in earnest until after the Civil War. In the years around 1870, the demand among American consumers for silk textile products began to surge and silk manufacturers were able to draw on the resources of inexpensive industrial labor, available investment capital, and imported British weaving technology to meet that demand.ⁱ

Paterson, New Jersey, was the first community in the United States to capitalize on the profitability of producing finished silk products for mass consumption domestically and overseas. Beginning with the founding of the first silk mill in 1839, the silk industry in Paterson grew exponentially into the early twentieth century. Paterson soon became known as the "Silk City" and thrived in a market close to the international port and fashion-oriented community of New York City and in a region inundated with cheap immigrant labor.

In 1873, the first Pennsylvania silk mill began operation in Scranton. It was owned by the Sprague Manufacturing Company of Providence, Rhode Island. The system of labor conducted in this factory was representative of the industry as a whole. As of 1875, the Sprague firm had "180 hands in the mill, principally girls, at ages varying from twelve to twenty." The factory, which was then rated the fourth largest silk milling operation in the nation, produced 4,000 pounds of silk per month, valued at \$30,000. The Scranton area would become home to several silk mills, including the Harvey Silk Mill, founded in 1880, and the Meadow Brook Silk Company (1889). Dozens of other silk mills would be built in other northeastern Pennsylvania communities.ⁱⁱ

Patterson silk firms evidently began to transfer their operations to Pennsylvania in 1880. The 1880 date inscription on the Bellefonte Silk Mill building in Hawley indicates that the process of site selection and property acquisition undertaken by the Dexter Lambert firm of Paterson, as well as the inception of construction, must have taken place by that year. The mill began operation in June 1881. The silk industry formed a substantial presence on the Pennsylvania industrial landscape of the early twentieth century. As of 1916, more than three hundred silk mills were operating within the state, with most of these mills clustered in northeastern Pennsylvania and the Lehigh Valley.

² Morgan and Morgan, 18-23.

³ Elizabeth Armstrong Hall, "If Looms Could Speak: The Story of Pennsylvania's Silk Industry," *Pennsylvania Heritage* (Summer 2006), 26-27.

ⁱⁱ Hall, 28.

The economic decline of the silk industry in Pennsylvania started in the 1930s following a relatively stable "high-water" period during the 1920s. Even in the '20s, problems began to emerge in the industry, as less expensive synthetic materials such as nylon and rayon were introduced and competed successfully with U.S.-milled real silk, while imported Japanese silks also began to bring the price of real silk down. During the 1930s, a series of strikes in Lehigh Valley silk weaving mills persuaded many silk manufacturers in that area to transfer their operations to less expensive Southern markets, a trend that in turn made circumstances more difficult for northeastern Pennsylvania's silk throwing mills by removing a nearby ready market. In 1941 there came a ban on the importation of Japanese raw silk. Because of these significant changes, many Pennsylvania silk businesses closed during the period from the onset of the Great Depression ca. 1930 up to ca. 1942. Many silk mill businesses in eastern Pennsylvania abandoned silk production, adapting their operations to the production of cotton, wool, or synthetics. Gradual deterioration in the situation of the silk industry within the Commonwealth continued in the years following the war, culminating in the closing down of the last mill, the Catoir Silk Company, Inc., in Allentown, in 1989.ⁱⁱⁱ

History of Bellefonte Silk Mill

The silk milling firm of Dexter, Lambert & Company, headquartered in Paterson, New Jersey, created what became Hawley's most important manufacturing concern. During 1880-1881, Dexter Lambert constructed the Bellefonte Silk Mill building of native bluestone on a terrace situated above and to the south of town and immediately beside the west bank of the falls of the Wallenpaupack Creek. The Bellefonte Silk Mill was possibly the earliest instance of a Paterson silk firm transferring a portion of its operations to a location in Pennsylvania. The *Honesdale Citizen* reported on January 27, 1881, that, "The long looked for water wheel for the Bellefonte silk factory arrived in town last week. It is said the wheel weighs fourteen tons."^{iv} On June 2, the same paper predicted that the silk mill would commence operation in about mid-June. A dedication of the building had just recently taken place, attended by Wayne County dignitaries as well as some 70 people from Paterson and New York accompanying Mr. Catholina Lambert, the principal proprietor of the firm, via special railway coach. The Dexter Lambert firm designed and built the mill and the associated waterworks on a 3-acre parcel it had contracted from Honesdale resident Joseph Atkinson in 1882, including "all right to use waterpower and privilege to build dams." The overall Dexter Lambert plot, which included an adjoining 3-acre lot to the south, extended along the Wallenpaupack for approximately 900 feet, bordering two successive falls that provided an overall natural head of 83 feet.^v

Alfred Mathews's 1886 county history presented a fairly detailed description of the Dexter Lambert facility in Hawley, then just five years old but perhaps Wayne County's most important manufacturing plant for its time. The mill building ran 360 feet by 44 feet, with the long dimension aligned north to south. A front pavilion wing, somewhat taller than the main block, extended westward to the public roadway from the center of the building, this wing measuring 80 feet north-south by 23 feet east-west. The cost of the building's construction was \$130,000. The mill employed about 300 women and girls in its operation during the 1880s and 1890s.^{vi}

ⁱⁱⁱ Hall, 26, 34; Stepenoff, 17.

^{iv} The reference to a "water wheel" in 1881 evidently refers to the mill's turbine, which was clearly in place in 1886. A turbine was in effect a horizontally aligned waterwheel housed in a cylindrical casing, and turbines were frequently referred to as waterwheels during the period. Turbines were particularly well suited to waterpower locations with a sudden, steep fall or "head" of water, and thus a turbine would have been a suitable choice for this mill from the beginning.

^v Walter B. Barbe and Kurt A. Reed, eds., *History of Wayne County, Pennsylvania* (1998), 70-71; *Honesdale Citizen*, January 27, 1881, June 2, 1881, and August 23, 1894; Wayne County Deed Book 54, pg 202. The Bellefonte Mill land was referred to in the metes and bounds of the adjoining parcel to the south as "the land contracted by Joseph Atkinson to Catholina Lambert," in the 1884 deed for the latter land, made when Catholina Lambert acquired it from Levi Barker (Deed Book 61, pg 270). Evidently both parcels had been contracted for by Lambert well for some time prior to their outright acquisition.

^{vi} Mathews, 689; *Honesdale Citizen*, August 23, 1894.

Mathews lauded the silk mill building's qualities of visual distinctiveness, and referred briefly to the plant's mechanical aspects.

The architecture of the mill is so in keeping with its surroundings that the picturesqueness of the place is increased by its presence. The building is a castellated structure of native stone, laid in ashlar blocks, with cut-stone facings. . . .

The great natural fall of the stream bed does away with the necessity for a dam, and the water is conducted from one side of the falls to the center of the mill, where it moves a forty-five-inch turbine wheel with a head of sixty-one feet. This drives all the machinery of the mill and is unfailling at all seasons. [The building is] heated by steam and lighted by gas, electricity having been found unadapted to the illumination required at the looms.

The work carried on here is what is technically known as "throwing," which includes all the processes through which hard silk passes after it has been reeled from the cocoon. The latter work is done in Italy and France, from whence the raw material comes. The mill has forty thousand spindles, representing the finest and most complete plant of "throwing" machinery in the world.^{vii}

The turbine was replaced with a new one, presumably on the same pattern, in 1894. Soon afterwards, however, on August 15 of that year, a fast-spreading fire struck the Bellemonte Mill, partially destroying the building. Most of the rear or east wall collapsed, but the other three walls remained standing. Catholina Lambert arrived the following day and, having inspected the damage, immediately determined to rebuild and reopen the mill. The turbine had suffered no damage from the fire, although much of the other machinery was "ruined and twisted." Lambert predicted at the time that the mill walls would be completely restored by the end of October 1894, with the refurbished mill to be "an exact reproduction of its predecessor."^{viii}

Historic photographs indicate that the extant shed-roofed, one-story brick structure extending along the main building's east wall, which formerly housed the mill's steam engine, is an addition, as this structure does not appear in early views (Photos 17 and 18). This section, perhaps an element in the 1894 rebuilding, probably replaced an earlier, smaller engine house that was possibly part of the mill's original construction. As indicated in the 1886 account, the mill was probably equipped with a steam engine from the beginning. The tall brick chimney for the steam engine's boiler did survive the fire, although it was replaced with the present round steel chimney in the mid-twentieth century.

Another element in the mill complex for which the construction date is at present unknown is the Cocoon Storehouse. In the early years of operation, Dexter Lambert imported raw silk fiber from Europe already reeled from the cocoon, as noted in the 1886 account presented above, but evidently at some date the firm began importing silk in cocoon form, necessitating construction of the storehouse for safe storage of the cocoons. The architectural similarity of the storehouse to the main mill building in construction suggests that the storehouse was built relatively early in the property's history, probably before 1900.

In the course of the twentieth century, the ownership of the property changed hands a number of times, but it continued to operate as a textile mill for most of the century. In 1913, Catholina Lambert adopted a hardline stance in opposition to the "Great Strike" of that year affecting the silk industry in Paterson. The Dexter Lambert mill in Paterson was shut down for several months, resulting in the loss of a great deal of business and income. Unable to pay the company's mounting debts, Lambert had to pledge his mansion and art collection to

^{vii} Mathews, 689.

^{viii} *Honesdale Citizen*, August 23, 1894.

secure a mortgage of over \$1.1 million to establish credit. In 1914, Dexter Lambert began a long-term lease of the Bellemonte Mill to Welwood Silk Mills, Inc., owned by J.C. Welwood and headquartered in New York which employed the mill for its own silk manufacturing operation. The Welwood firm purchased the Hawley property outright in 1926.

In 1943, the J.C. Welwood firm transferred ownership to Mary Vacca of Hawley. In 1956, Vacca began renting the mill to Leonard and Henry Sherman, proprietors of the Sherman Underwear Mills. As of 1960, the Sherman firm was the largest single employer in Wayne County with over 300 workers engaged in operating the former Bellemonte mill. In 1972, Top Form Mills, Inc., purchased the property and continued the use of the mill. The Sherman Mills employed about 250 people at this facility as of 1981. In 1988, bankrupt Top Form closed the mill and in the following year conveyed the property to Kingdom Realty Corporation of Montgomery, New York, which leased the building to a large-scale antiques dealer. Changes such as sash replacement, addition of loading docks, replacement of some interior doors and minor subdivision for offices took place in the second half of the 20th century. The present owners, Hawley Silk Mill, LLC, acquired the mill building in May 2009.^{ix}

Architectural Context

The Bellemonte Silk Mill is an outstanding example of the industrial mill architecture of the late nineteenth century. Industrial mills of the period tended to embody a form that combined certain standard elements. The typical mill of northeastern Pennsylvania was a long building constructed of brick or stone masonry, standing three to four stories in height, containing wide unbroken expanses of floor space to house machinery and employees and featuring numerous large windows to provide light and ventilation. Mill buildings located at suitable waterpower sites would incorporate the headrace arches and basement wheel pits housing the turbines to power the machinery. Steam engines and boilers with tall chimneys, often housed in appended structures, were ubiquitous features of these buildings since steam engines enabled year-round operation even in a region where the winter climate could stop the flow of waterpower. Like other American industrial buildings of the period, mills were generally designed with decorative architectural elements providing aesthetic expression. This aspect of embellishment was typically fairly restrained and was often limited to vernacular details but occasionally mills presented decorative schemes derived from one or more of the nationally predominant architectural styles such as Romanesque Revival, Italianate, or Gothic.

The Bellemonte epitomizes mill design of northeastern Pennsylvania during the late nineteenth century. The long, tall stone-masonry building with its symmetrical plan and façade design, and its appended brick engine house presents the key elements of the typical building type. Although the grade has risen against the east wall of the building and vegetation has overgrown the adjacent exterior area partially obscuring the cut-stone arch for the headrace and silt has been deposited within the turbine pit, these elements remain fully preserved as important features.

A number of comparable mill buildings dating to the late nineteenth century that survive in northeastern Pennsylvania and the related industry centers of southeastern Pennsylvania are either listed in the National Register or have been determined eligible as indicated in a survey of the CRGIS historic site inventory. Just one such extant mill was found in the inventory for the northeastern Pennsylvania region, the Scranton Silk Mill (CRGIS key no. 117472, determined eligible in 1990), constructed ca. 1900 and located in the City of Scranton. National Register-listed and -eligible silk mill buildings from the late nineteenth century in southeastern Pennsylvania include the Bethlehem Silk Mill constructed in 1886 (CRGIS key no. 090062, listed on NRHP in 2005), the Sauquoit Silk Mill, also in Bethlehem and also dating to 1886 (064496, determined eligible in 1995),

^{ix} Barbe and Reed, 71; Deed Book 125, pg 427; DB 133, pg 495; DB 141, pg 213; DB 147, pg 18; DB 152, pg 160; DB 152, 533; DB 283, pg 966; DB 516, pg 460; DB 3749, pg 203; Morgan and Morgan, 50; Becker; "The Catholina Lambert Story," accessed online at http://www.rootsweb.ancestry.com~njpchsgc/pchs/cath_lambert.htm .

the Lipps and Sutton Silk Mill erected in Fountain Hill, Lehigh County, in 1886 (001115, NRHP 1993), the Grimshaw Silk Mill built in Reading in 1887 (077397, NRHP 1985), the Ashley and Bailey Silk Mill constructed in York in 1899 (096187, NRHP 1991), and the 1900 Diamond Silk Mill, also in York (096463, NRHP 1992).

These significant surviving mill buildings share several essential characteristics: brick masonry construction, relatively long, rectangular forms, generally symmetrical plans and fenestration patterns, three-story height (although the Ashley & Bailey is four stories and the Lipps & Sutton is two stories), and restrained but well designed and executed decorative detail derived from the Italianate or Romanesque Revival styles or from prevalent industrial vernacular forms.

Surviving Pennsylvania industrial buildings influenced by Gothic Revival styles are not numerous. The CRGIS inventory lists just one other National Register-listed or -eligible Gothic style industrial building in eastern Pennsylvania, the John C. Ryle and Company factory building (key no. 105327, eligible 1994) in East Stroudsburg, Monroe County, constructed in 1886 for Ryle, another of the Patterson silk industry leaders.

Other Regional Mills

19th century mills in the region served various functions primarily focusing on the manufacture of textiles, shoes and glass.

- In the mid-1880s, within a few years after the opening of the Bellemonte Mill, Dexter Lambert established a second mill in a smaller and less costly frame building situated just above and to the south of the Bellemonte which the company named the Nelson Mill. No photographic documentation has been located and the mill was demolished prior to 1900.
- The O'Connor Glass Factory located just below the Bellemonte mill is a smaller three story stone mill constructed in the late 1880s that survives and is listed on the National Register. (See Photo 21). The mill contains the characteristic features of open floors with numerous evenly-spaced windows and incorporates projecting belt courses as seen in the Bellemonte. The Kimble Silk Company (demolished) originally operated near the Hawley railroad station in 1912 but moved into the O'Connor Glass Factory building where it continued until the early 1940s.^x (see photos 20, 22, 25).
- The Hawley Silk Company took over the 1898 building of the United States Knitting Company on Spruce and Hudson streets in 1908 and operated until closing in the mid-1930s. Both buildings have been demolished and documentation is limited.
- The Wangum Cut Glass Factory was located in Hawley from 1910 to 1924 and has also been demolished. Historic images document that it was a small stone three story mill with open floor plan and numerous windows (See Photo 27).
- The ca 1890s Dorfinger Glass Works survives as a glass museum in nearby White Mills. The building is a long narrow 18 bay building with the requisite pattern of fenestration and associated engine house with tall chimney (Photo 26).
- Several additional late 19th century shoe manufacturing mills including the Durland and Thompson Co. (1873) and the Honesdale Shoe Co (1889), both located in nearby Honesdale, were three story, long narrow buildings constructed of brick with numerous window openings and open floor plans. The images of the buildings are very poor and do not lend to photo copying. Both buildings have been demolished.

^x Mathews, 689; Barbe and Reed, 71-72; *Honesdale Citizen*, August 23, 1894.

The Bellemonte Silk Mill embodies the same essential architectural characteristics of other late-nineteenth-century mill buildings. As the mill was constructed in a rural location, the Dexter Lambert firm chose to build in readily available local bluestone rather than in brick which would have had to be purchased outside the region. The choice of material may also have been influenced by aesthetic considerations.

The Bellemonte Silk Mill is significant as a large, intact 19th century mill uncommonly built in stone rather than brick. Built in 1880-1881 for what would prove to be one of the region's most important industries, the Bellemonte Silk Mill presents the large scale, the open plan, the fenestration pattern of numerous windows placed in an ordered symmetrical design, the masonry construction, the sturdily built framing and the waterworks elements such as headrace arch and turbine pit that distinguish the mill type of its period. The mill's design in the High Victorian Gothic as evinced in the castellated parapet, the visually distinctive bluestone construction, its integrity that includes the well-preserved and unusual Cocoon Storehouse and the site's picturesque setting establish the property as significant to northeastern Pennsylvania's architectural heritage from the late nineteenth century.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Bibliography (Cite the books, articles, and other sources used in preparing this form)

- Barbe, Walter B., and Kurt A. Reed, eds. *History of Wayne County, Pennsylvania, 1798-1998*. Honesdale: Wayne County Historical Society, 1998.
- Becker, Peter. "Hawley's Sherman Mills is 100 Years of Age." *Hawley News Eagle*. Ca. 1981. On microfilm at the Hawley Public Library, Hawley.
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- "The Development of the Silk Industry in the United States." *Posselt's Textile Industry* Volume 7, No. 5, pages 113-124. November 1910. Accessed online September 19, 2009 at http://www.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/periodicals/ptj_07_05_1.pdf.
- Federal Writers' Program. *Pennsylvania: A Guide to the Keystone State*. American Guide Series; this volume co-sponsored by the Pennsylvania Historical Commission and the University of Pennsylvania. New York: Oxford University Press, 1940.
- Haines, Benjamin F., ed. *Centennial and Illustrated Wayne County*. Honesdale: Benjamin F. Haines, 1902. Reprint edition published by the Wayne County Historical Society, Honesdale, 1987.
- Hall, Elizabeth Armstrong. "If Looms Could Speak: The Story of Pennsylvania's Silk Industry." In *Pennsylvania Heritage* Volume 32, No.3 (Summer 2006), 26-35.
- Honesdale Citizen*. On microfilm at the Wayne County Historical Society, Honesdale.
- Mathews, Alfred, *History of Wayne, Pike and Monroe Counties, Pennsylvania*. Philadelphia: R.T. Peck & Co., 1886.
- Morgan, Richard, and Shirley Morgan. *The History of Hawley, Pennsylvania*. Hawley: Hawley Sesquicentennial Celebration, 1977. A revision and expansion of the 1927 volume of the same title, authored by M.J. McAndrew and published by the Wayne County Historical Society, Honesdale.

Bellefonte Silk Mill
Name of Property

Wayne County, PA
County and State

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 repository:

Historic Resources Survey Number (if assigned):

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 acres
(Do not include previously listed resource acreage)

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet)

1	<u>18</u>	<u>485600</u>	<u>4590920</u>	3	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing
2	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	4	<u> </u>	<u> </u>	<u> </u>
	Zone	Easting	Northing		Zone	Easting	Northing

Verbal Boundary Description (describe the boundaries of the property)

Tax parcels 10-0-0006-0012, 10-0-0006-0013, and 10-0-0006-0040. The tax parcels correspond with the boundary shown on continuation sheet page 8:3

Boundary Justification (explain why the boundaries were selected)

The eligible National Register boundary is that comprehending the three tax parcels composing the property on which the mill building and the cocoon storage building, an associated contributing resource, are located. These parcels made up the major portion of the silk mill property in the period of significance (1880 to ca. 1900); thus these parcels contain land that is historically associated with the buildings and that serves as an intact historic setting for the eligible resources.

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Timothy M. Noble with research by Philip E. Pendleton
organization Noble Preservation Services, Inc. date January 2010
street & number 10 Log House Road telephone 215-679-5110
city or town Zionsville PA 18092 state zip code
e-mail tnoble@noblepreservation.com

Additional Documentation

Submit the following items with the completed form:

- **Maps:** A USGS map (7.5 or 15 minute series) indicating the property's location.
- **Continuation Sheets See Section 7, Pages 1- 5 and Section 8, Page 1-4**
- **Additional items:** Notification and labels as per PA SHPA

Photographs:

Name of Property: Bellemonite Silk Mill

City or Vicinity: Hawley

County: Wayne **State:** Pennsylvania

Photographer: Timothy M. Noble unless otherwise noted
Photo 0026 by Troy Bystrum, Hawley Silk Mill LC.

Date Photographed: June 2009

Description of Photograph(s) and number:

- 1 of 27. Bellemonite Mill, view looking northeast, showing west and south facades.
- 2 of 27. Bellemonite Mill, view looking south, showing north and west facades.
- 3 of 27. Bellemonite Mill, north portion of building, west façade, view looking east.
- 4 of 27. Bellemonite Mill, front entry pavilion section, west façade, view looking east.
- 5 of 27. Bellemonite Mill, rear perspective on southerly two-thirds of building, east façade, view looking west.

- 6 of 27. Bellemonte Mill with cocoon storehouse in foreground, view looking east.
- 7 of 27. Detail of date inscription panel on front (west façade) of pavilion, second story.
- 8 of 27. Interior view of first floor in main block, view looking north.
- 9 of 27. Interior view of second floor in main block, view looking north.
- 10 of 27. Interior view of third floor in main block, view looking north.
- 11 of 27. Interior view of lobby area, first floor of front pavilion section, view looking southeast.
- 12 of 27. Detail of main stairway, first floor of front pavilion section.
- 13 of 27. Detail of turbine pit, upper basement, east side of south-center portion of building, view looking south.
- 14 of 27. Cocoon storehouse, view looking north, showing south and east facades.
- 15 of 27. Cocoon storehouse, view looking east, showing west and south facades.
- 16 of 27. Interior view of cocoon storehouse, view looking west.
- 17 of 27. Historic view of Bellemonte Mill, ca. 1890, view looking south, showing west facade.
- 18 of 27. Historic view of Bellemonte Mill, ca. 1890, view looking northwest, showing rear (east) facade.
- 19 of 27. Historic postcard of Bellemonte and O'Connor Mills, ca. 1900, view looking southeast, showing east and north facades. HSM LLS private collection.
- 20 of 27. Historic postcard of Bellemonte, ca. 1900, view looking southeast, showing east facade. HSM LLS private collection.
- 21 of 27. Historic postcard of Bellemonte and O'Connor Mills, ca. 1900, view looking southeast, showing east and north facades. HSM LLS private collection.
- 22 of 27. Historic image of Bellemonte Mill after 1894 fire, ca. 1894, view looking northwest, showing east and south facades. HSM LLS private collection.
- 23 of 27. Historic photograph of Bellemonte Mill, ca. 1950, view looking north, showing south and east facades. HSM LLS private collection.
- 24 of 27. Looking west at east façade showing Engine House of Bellemonte Mill.
- 25 of 27. Looking south at north façades of Bellemonte and O'Connor Mills.

Bellefonte Silk Mill
Name of Property

Wayne County, PA
County and State

- 26 of 27. Looking northwest at Dorfinger Glass Museum, White Mills PA. Photo by Troy Bystrum
HSM LLS private collection.
- 27 of 27 Historic view of Wangum Cut Glass Company mill, ca. 1910.

Property Owner:

(complete this item at the request of the SHPO or FPO)

name Hawley Silk Mill LLC (c/o Grant Genzlinger)

street & number 4 Main Avenue telephone 570-226-2993

city or town Hawley 18428

state PA zip code