

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: Pennsylvania	
COUNTY: Montgomery	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE

1. NAME

COMMON:
Farmar Mill

AND/OR HISTORIC:
Mather Mill

2. LOCATION

STREET AND NUMBER:
Skippack Pike and Bethlehem Road, Whitemarsh Township

CITY OR TOWN:
Fort Washington

STATE Pennsylvania	CODE 42	COUNTY: Montgomery	CODE 091
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3. CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY (Check One)	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC
<input type="checkbox"/> District <input type="checkbox"/> Site <input type="checkbox"/> Object <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Building <input type="checkbox"/> Structure	<input type="checkbox"/> Public <input type="checkbox"/> Private <input type="checkbox"/> Both	Public Acquisition: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> In Process <input type="checkbox"/> Being Considered	<input type="checkbox"/> Occupied <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unoccupied <input type="checkbox"/> Preservation work in progress
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate)			
<input type="checkbox"/> Agricultural <input type="checkbox"/> Commercial <input type="checkbox"/> Educational <input type="checkbox"/> Entertainment	<input type="checkbox"/> Government <input type="checkbox"/> Industrial <input type="checkbox"/> Military <input type="checkbox"/> Museum	<input type="checkbox"/> Park <input type="checkbox"/> Private Residence <input type="checkbox"/> Religious <input type="checkbox"/> Scientific	<input type="checkbox"/> Transportation <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) restoration by Commonwealth of Pennsylvania

4. OWNER OF PROPERTY

OWNER'S NAME:
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC:
Montgomery County Court House

STREET AND NUMBER:
Airy and Swede Streets

CITY OR TOWN: Norristown	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE OF SURVEY:
Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

DATE OF SURVEY: 1966
 Federal State County Local

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS:
William Penn Memorial Museum

STREET AND NUMBER:
Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg	STATE: Pennsylvania	CODE 42
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SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION	(Check One)					
	<input type="checkbox"/> Excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> Good	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Fair	<input type="checkbox"/> Deteriorated	<input type="checkbox"/> Ruins	<input type="checkbox"/> Unexposed
	(Check One)			(Check One)		
	<input type="checkbox"/> Altered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Unaltered		<input type="checkbox"/> Moved	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original Site	

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

Farmar's Mill is a three story, dressed field stone structure with gabled roof that extends down to above the second story windows. There are two chimneys, three dormers, six over six sash windows, exposed basement, and also a single story dressed field stone addition. The Mill has been enlarged since it was first constructed ca. 1690, but remains on the original site along the Wissahickon Creek.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNIVERSITY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-Columbian | <input type="checkbox"/> 16th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 18th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 20th Century |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 15th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 17th Century | <input type="checkbox"/> 19th Century | |

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known)

AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aboriginal | <input type="checkbox"/> Education | <input type="checkbox"/> Political | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Prehistoric | <input type="checkbox"/> Engineering | <input type="checkbox"/> Religion/Philosophy | <input type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | | |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The land on which Farmar's Mill is located is part of 5000 acres purchased from William Penn in 1683 by Major Jasper Farmar of the British Army. Farmar, a close friend of William Penn, residing in Cork, Ireland, died before he could leave for America, but transferred the acreage in whitemarsh Township to his widow, Mary, and son, Edward.

The family left from their native Wales, and arrived in Philadelphia in 1685. The 5000 acres extended from the Delaware to the Schuylkill River, and Farmar decided to settle in the Fort Washington area which he called White-marsh. Between 1685-1700, Farmar built a large, stone grist mill along the banks of the Wissahickon Creek that remained in operation for approximately 200 years.

Farmar was the first settler in the area and came into inevitable contact with local Indians. He became so proficient in their language and trusted that William Penn made him his interpreter at all peace councils, held on the Farmar farm.

After Farmar died, the mill became the possession of

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

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(Continuation Sheet)

STATE Pennsylvania	
COUNTY Montgomery	
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(Number all entries)

S. Significance (con't)

Samuel Morris of nearby Hope Lodge, who operated it until his death in 1770. His brother, Joshua Morris, assumed ownership and, during the Whitemarsh Encampment of the Continental Army in 1777, supplied grain to the troops.

The mill was probably rebuilt in 1787 by Isaac Mather, son-in-law of Joshua Morris, and became known as Mather's Mill. The mill was last used in 1896, and fell into disrepair, but has remained a well-known landmark of Whitemarsh Township.

Mather's Mill is further significant because it is a rare example of late 17th and 18th century mill construction in Pennsylvania that exists in relatively intact condition.

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

Edward Matthews Scrap Book 96/89 Collections of the Historical Society of Montgomery County, Farmar Mill, Whitemarsh.
The History of Montgomery County, T.W. Bean, Philadelphia, 1884, Whitemarsh Township pp. 1138, 1142, 1143.
 Map and Atlases of Montgomery County, 1848, 1871, 1877, Property Owners, Whitemarsh.
 Brief of Title, Deeds of Philadelphia and Montgomery Counties.
Pennsylvania Archives, 3rd Series, Volumes 14, 15, 16, Taxables 1769-1782 Whitemarsh.

10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES									
CORNER	LATITUDE		LONGITUDE		OR	LATITUDE			LONGITUDE			
	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees		Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes	Seconds	Degrees	Minutes
NW	°	'	"	°	'	"	40°	07'	26"	75°	13'	10"
NE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SE	°	'	"	°	'	"						
SW	°	'	"	°	'	"						

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 3.185

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY:	CODE

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Pennsylvania Register of Historic Sites and Landmarks

ORGANIZATION: Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission DATE: August, 1971

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN: Harrisburg STATE: Pennsylvania CODE: 42

12. STATE LIAISON OFFICER CERTIFICATION

NATIONAL REGISTER VERIFICATION

As the designated State Liaison Officer for the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665), I hereby nominate this property for inclusion in the National Register and certify that it has been evaluated according to the criteria and procedures set forth by the National Park Service. The recommended level of significance of this nomination is:
 National State Local

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

Name: S.K. Sl... [Signature]
 State Liaison Officer
 Title: Executive Director, Penna. Historical and Museum Commission

Chief, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: December 9, 1971

ATTEST:
Keeper of The National Register
 Date: _____

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
GEOLOGICAL SURVEY

STATE
DEPARTMENT
TOPOGRAPHICAL

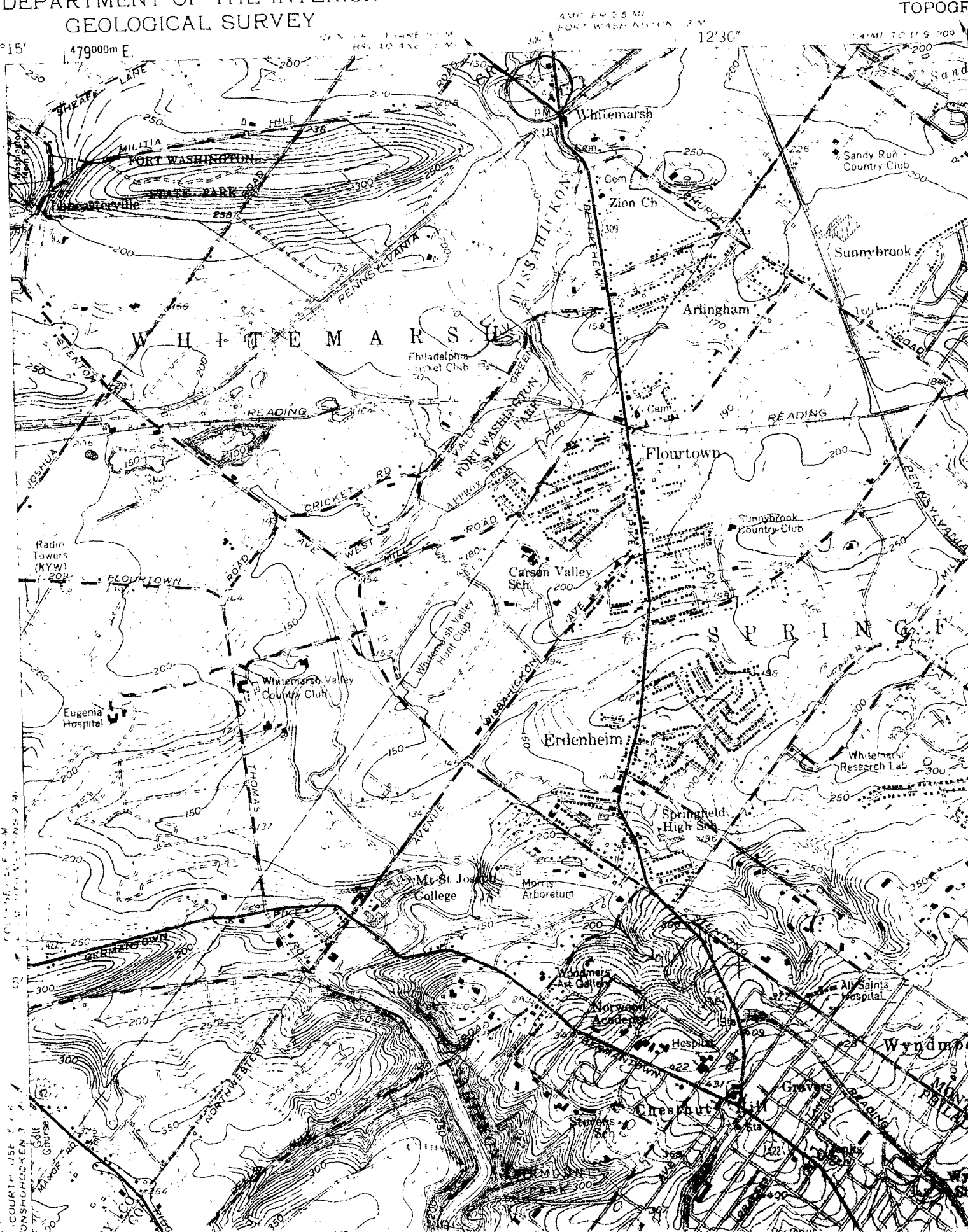
SCALE

75°15'
07'30"

479000m.E.

12'30"

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COURT USE
ON SHOCKEN
MAJOR

Wyndmoor
Graves
Stevens Sch
Hospitals
All Saints Hospital