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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE
NAT. REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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 10-900a). Use a typewriter, word processor, or computer, to complete all items.

1. Name of Property

historic name Taylor's Mill Historic District Amendment

other names/site number _____

2. Location

street & number Potterstown and Rockaway Creek Roads NA not for publication

city or town Tewksbury Township vicinity

state NJ code 034 county Hunterdon code 019 zip code 08858

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.)

Signature of certifying official/Title

Date

Assistant Commissioner for Natural & Historic Resources/DSHPO

State of 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:

entered in the National Register.

See continuation sheet.

determined eligible for the National Register

See continuation sheet.

determined not eligible for the National Register.

removed from the National Register.

other, (explain:)

Signature of the Keeper

Date of Action

Pattik Andrus

3/7/97

Taylor's Mill HD Add.
Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ
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	
_____	_____	buildings
_____	_____	sites
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	structures
_____	_____	objects
<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	Total

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

N/A

Number of contributing resources previously listed
in the National Register

0

6. Function or Use

Historic Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road related

Current Functions
(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation/road related

7. Description

Architectural Classification
(Enter categories from instructions)

N/A

Materials
(Enter categories from instructions)

foundation stone
walls metal

roof _____
other _____

Narrative Description

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

8. Statement of Significance

Applicable National Register Criteria

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

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

Criteria Considerations N/A
(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 of age or achieved significance within the past 50 years.

Areas of Significance

(Enter categories from instructions)

Transportation

Period of Significance

1760-1930

Significant Dates

1901

Significant Person

(Complete if Criterion B is marked above)

N/A

Cultural Affiliation

N/A

Architect/Builder

American Bridge Company

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): N/A

- 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:

Local government

Taylor's Mill HD Add.
Name of Property

Hunterdon, NJ
County and State

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of Property 3 appr. Califon, NJ Quad

UTM References

(Place additional UTM references on a continuation sheet.)

1

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See continuation sheet

Verbal Boundary Description

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

Boundary Justification

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

11. Form Prepared By

name/title Dennis N. Bertland, Director

organization Dennis Bertland Associates date April, 1996

street & number P. O. Box 11 telephone 908-689-6356

city or town Port Murray, state NJ zip code 07865

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 Oldwick Materials Inc.

street & number P. O. Box 341 telephone _____

city or town Matawan state NJ zip code 07747

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.

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The Taylor's Mill Historic District Amendment encompasses portions of the mill hydrosystem which were not included in the original district designation as well as a small adjoining truss bridge. The addition extends along the north bank of the Rockaway Creek from below the breached concrete mill dam to Potterstown Road and along the south bank from the western edge of the district to the same road, thus incorporating the northern half of the dam and mill pond site into the district. Occupying the creek's flood plain, the addition is lightly wooded with a scattering of open, grassy clearings. It is bounded by township roads on the west and south and by woodland to the north and east. The surrounding area is a mixture of open fields and woods with scattered farms and single family dwellings.

The mill dam spanned the creek at an angle to divert water into the mill's long head race. An early 20th-century reconstruction, it consists of broken concrete slabs with what are probably earlier earthen bank abutments at both ends. Topographical and other physical evidence indicates that the impoundment created by the dam must have extended well beyond the present district boundary, probably as far as the Potterstown Road bridge. The dam's broken concrete slabs appear to be at least three feet thick and about five feet wide, suggesting that the water level behind the dam was raised at least one foot or more, the height necessary for water flow into the head race. The resulting shallow pond or "slack water" probably was contained within the creek banks and given the level topography would have extended well upstream from the present district boundary.

There is another feature in the district extension evidently associated with the hydrosystem. A low dike-like earth bank on the north side of the creek appears to have helped contain the raised water level behind the dam, and a small gap between it and the north dam abutment may represent a spill way. The bank runs westward along the stream edge about hundred feet. A similar dike within the present district boundary extends at an angle from the surviving concrete pier at the mouth of the raceway about 50 feet to Rockaway Road. Both these features probably predate the present dam.

The district extension has one other contributing resource: the truss bridge carrying Potterstown Road over Rockaway Creek (Hunterdon County Bridge #T 61). Erected in 1901 on the coursed

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Taylor's Mill Historic District
Addendum, Hunterdon County, NJ

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rubble stone abutments of an earlier bridge, it is a Pratt half hip pony truss composed of four panels and with pin connected members. Loop-forged eye bars were used for the diagonals and stamped eye bars for the lower chord. An iron plaque fixed to its northeast end is inscribed with the construction date and the name and address of its manufacturer: the American Bridge Company, 100 Broadway, New York. The span measures 60 feet in length with roadway 16 feet in width. The roadway, originally wooden planks and now macadamized, is carried on I-beams. subsequent alterations include duplicate diagonals, welded panel-point plates, and outriggers.

There is one non-contributing resource in the district extension, the steel tower of a high voltage electrical power line which crosses its northwest corner.

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The Taylor's Mill Historic District amendment enlarges the district boundary to include portions of the mill hydrosystem which were excluded from the original nomination (the northern half of the mill dam with a related dike along the north bank of the creek and the northern and western portions of the former mill pond) and a 1901 truss bridge which carries Potterstown Road over Rockaway Creek just upstream from the mill dam/pond site. Since the hydro-system was integral to the mill's operation and has been identified as a contributing element of the historic district whose period of significance is 1760-1930, adjusting the district boundary to include the entire hydrosystem clearly is warranted. The truss bridge, in itself a representative example of its type, is the only survivor of the two truss bridges spanning Rockaway Creek (the other located by mill at the southern end of the district was recently replaced by a modern structure) which provided access to the mill for farmers and other patrons from the Oldwick neighborhood north of the creek. Furthermore, a visual linkage exists between the bridge and the mill dam/pond site, with the bridge terminating the view up the creek from the mill dam.

Access to Taylor's Mill, which was established in the 1760s, appears to have been rather limited at an early date. Access from Potterstown Road was by way of a lane or drift way to the south of Rockaway Road until the latter road was opened in the second quarter of the 19th-century. Potterstown Road was an important early thoroughfare linking the 18th-century settlements of Potterstown and New Germantown (present day Oldwick), both of which are within a few miles of the mill.¹ Mill patrons from the Oldwick neighborhood had to cross Rockaway Creek to reach the mill.² While the construction date of the first bridge erected at the Potterstown Road crossing of Rockaway Creek is unknown, an 1834 road return refers to a bridge there which a 1848 road petition describes as a "small stone bridge" and an 1852 road return as an "arched bridge."³ A wooden bridge evidently replaced the stone bridge sometime later, since in July 1900, when the Hunterdon County Board of Freeholders decided to erect a "new Iron Low truss bridge" at that location they first condemned "the old wooden structure."⁴

Bids for the construction of the new bridge were solicited in May, 1901, and on May 29th, a contract was awarded to the newly formed American Bridge Company specifying a price of \$897 and a completion date of August 1, 1901.⁵ The contractor was responsible for all work except for the road deck planks and lattice work

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"guard rails" to be supplied by the county. The only record for the completion of the bridge is the inclusion of \$897 for the American Bridge Company of New York among the bills paid by the Board of Freeholders at its October 9, 1901 meeting.⁶ Despite minor subsequent alterations, the bridge, an early work of the American Bridge Company which was formed in 1900 in the consolidation of several smaller companies, remains a representative example of the small truss bridges built by the Hunterdon County Freeholders in the late 19th/early 20th century period.⁷

Taylor's Mill operated as a grist mill until 1930, long after the other two mills which served the Oldwick neighborhood had been abandoned; Hall's Mill, which stood on Rockaway Creek about one mile downstream from Taylor's mill, shut down in about 1900, followed by the Cold Brook mill, which was located east of Oldwick on a small Lamington River tributary, sometime around World War I.⁸ In the last decade of Taylor's Mill operation, the Potterstown Road bridge and the no longer extant Rockaway Road span provided Oldwick area farmers with access to their only remaining local mill.

Footnotes:

¹ Potterstown Rural Historic District National Register Nomination, March, 1991, page 8-4.

² Samuel C. F. W. Beers, County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey, New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1873, page 33; Samuel C. Cornell, Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey, Philadelphia: S. C. Cornell and Lloyd Vanderveer, 1851.

³ Hunterdon County Road Records, Files 19-2-27, 38-7-2, and 21-5-28.

⁴ Meeting Minutes, July 17, 1900, Records, Board of Chosen Freeholders, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, 1900-1903, page 100.

⁵ Hunterdon County Bridge Records, "Notice to Bridge Builders," May 15, 1901 and "Contract for Bridge in Tewksbury Township Awarded to the American Bridge Co. May 29, 1901 for \$897.00."

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⁶ Meeting Minutes, October 9, 1901, Records, Board of Chosen Freeholders, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, 1900-1903, page 343.

⁷ James L. Cooper, Iron Monuments to Distant Posterity, Indian's Metal Bridges, 1870-1930, DePauw University, 1987, page 33; New Jersey Historic Bridge Survey. A. G. Lichtenstein and Associates, Inc. for New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1994, Hunterdon County Bridge # T-61.

⁸ Hunterdon County Master Plan Sites of Historic Interest, 1979, page 485; Taylor's Mill National Register Nomination, October, 1991, pp. 8-4 and 8-5; Stephanie Stevens, Forgotten Mills of Readington Township, Supreme Lithographers, 1987, pp 36-27; Interviews by Shaun Van Doren, Tewksbury Township Historian, with Dorothy Metzler and Miller Craig, April, 1996.

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BIBLIOGRAPHY

Books & Reports:

Cooper, James L. Iron Monuments to Distant Posterity, Indian's Metal Bridges, 1870-1930. DePauw University, 1987.

Honeyman, A. Van Doren, (ed.). Northwestern New Jersey: A History of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon, Warren, and Sussex Counties. 5 vols. New York: Lewis Historical Publishing Company, 1927.

Hunterdon County Master Plan, Sites of Historic Interest. Flemington, NJ: Hunterdon County Planning Board, November 1979.

New Jersey Historic Bridge Survey. A. G. Lichtenstein and Associates, Inc. for New Jersey Department of Transportation, 1994.

Potterstown Rural Historic District National Register Nomination, April, 1986, revised March, 1991.

Stevens, Stephanie, Forgotten Mills of Readington Township. Supreme Lithographers, 1987.

Taylor's Mill Historic District National Register Nomination, October, 1991.

Vermule, Cornelius Clarkson. Report of Water Supply, Water Power, the Flow of Streams and Attendant Phenomena. Geological Survey of New Jersey, Final Report of the State Geologist, Vol. III, Trenton, NJ: John L. Murphy Publishing Company, 1894.

Maps and Atlases:

Beers, F. W. County Atlas of Hunterdon, New Jersey. New York: F. W. Beers & Co., 1873.

Cornell, Samuel C. Map of Hunterdon County, New Jersey. Philadelphia: S. C. Cornell and Lloyd Vanderveer, 1851.

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Public Records:

Hunterdon County Clerk's Office, Court House, Flemington, NJ.
Board of Chosen Freeholders Minute Books
Hunterdon County Road Records

Hunterdon County Engineer's Office, Flemington, NJ
Hunterdon County Bridge Records

Interviews

Dorothy Metzler and Miller Craig, April, 1996, conducted by
Shaun Van Doren, Tewksbury Township Historian.

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HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICE

Taylor's Mill Historic District
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Verbal Boundary Description

The boundaries of the Taylor's Mill Historic District Amendment are delineated on the attached map entitled "Taylor's Mill Historic District Amendment Site Location and Boundary Map", and are verbally described and justified in the following paragraphs. The site and boundary map was made using the following municipal tax map: Sheet 16, Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, New Jersey, prepared by Frank C. Bohren, C. E. in July, 1963 and last revised in 1992 by Heritage Consulting Engineers.

The boundary of Taylor's Mill Historic District Amendment begins on the north side of Rockaway Road at its point of intersection with the municipal boundary between Tewksbury and Readington Township. From there, the district amendment boundary runs north along the municipal boundary to the middle of Rockaway Creek and then follows the municipal boundary down the middle of the creek a distance of 600 feet. From there it turns west and follows a straight line of convenience across block 44, lot 24 in Tewksbury Township to a point on the southeast side of Potterstown Road and across the road to its northwest side and a point which is 400 feet from the north corner of Potterstown and Rockaway Roads. The boundary proceeds southwest along the northwest side of Potterstown Road to the northwest corner of the northwest abutment of Bridge T-61 (Potterstown Road over Rockaway Creek). It then runs southwest along the upstream side of the bridge to the southwest corner of the southwest abutment. From there it continues southwest along the northwest side of Potterstown Road to the Rockaway Road intersection, and crossing Potterstown Road to the southeast corner of the intersection follows the north side of Rockaway Road to the place of beginning.

Verbal Boundary Justification

The boundaries of the Taylor's Mill Historic District Amendment are delineated to include the portions of the mill hydrosystem excluded from the original nomination as well as the adjoining truss bridge. Township roads provide an appropriate edge on the south and west; on the north a line of convenience across block 44, lot 24 serves to establish a boundary across the wide, wooded creek flood plain.

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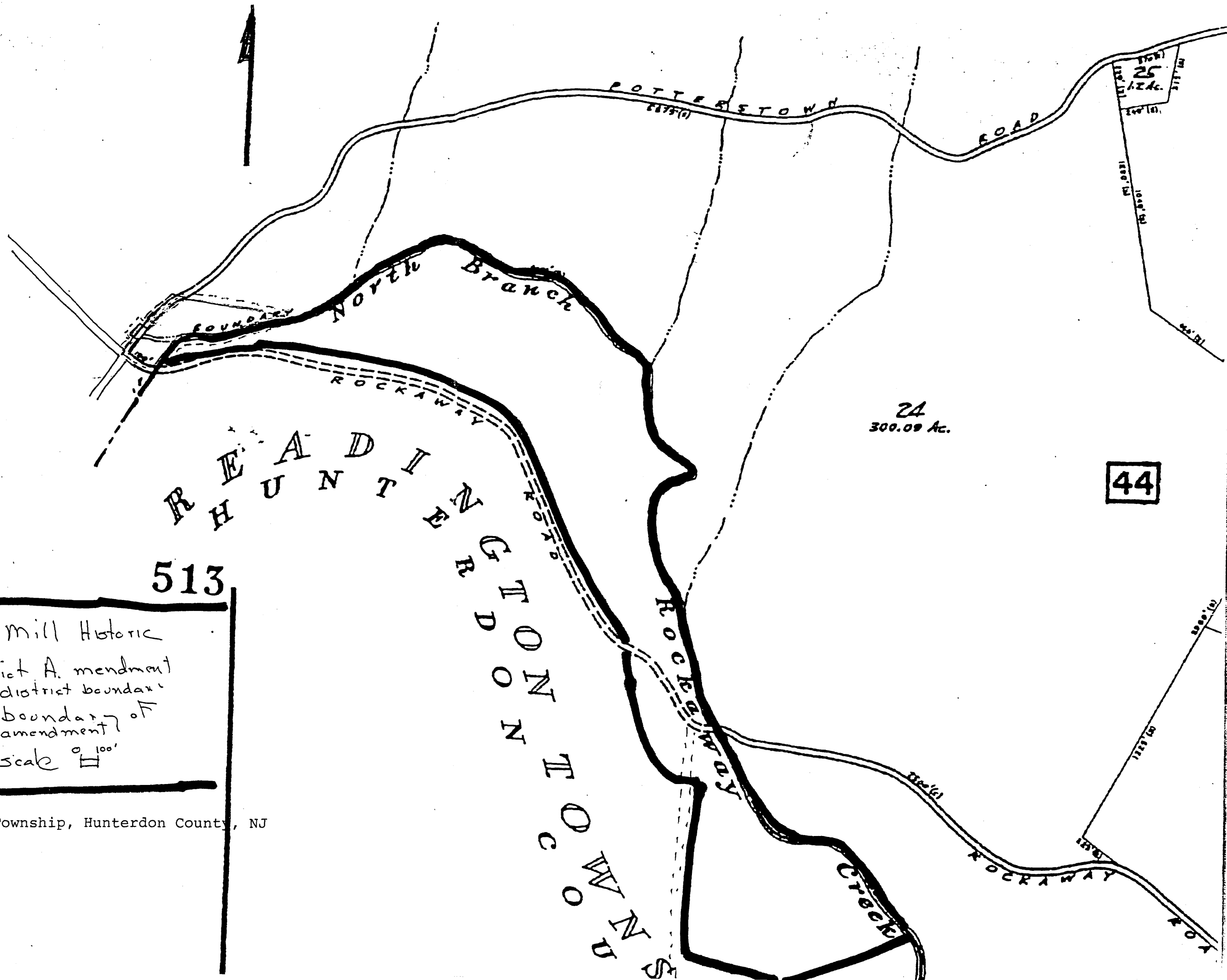
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Photographic Identification:

The following information is the same for all of the photographs submitted with the nomination:

Name:	Taylor's Mill Historic District Amendment
Location:	Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, NJ
Photographer:	Dennis Bertland
Date of photographs:	April, 1996
Negative repository:	Tewksbury Township Historic Preservation Commission Tewksbury Township Municipal Building 60 Water Street Lebanon, NJ 08833

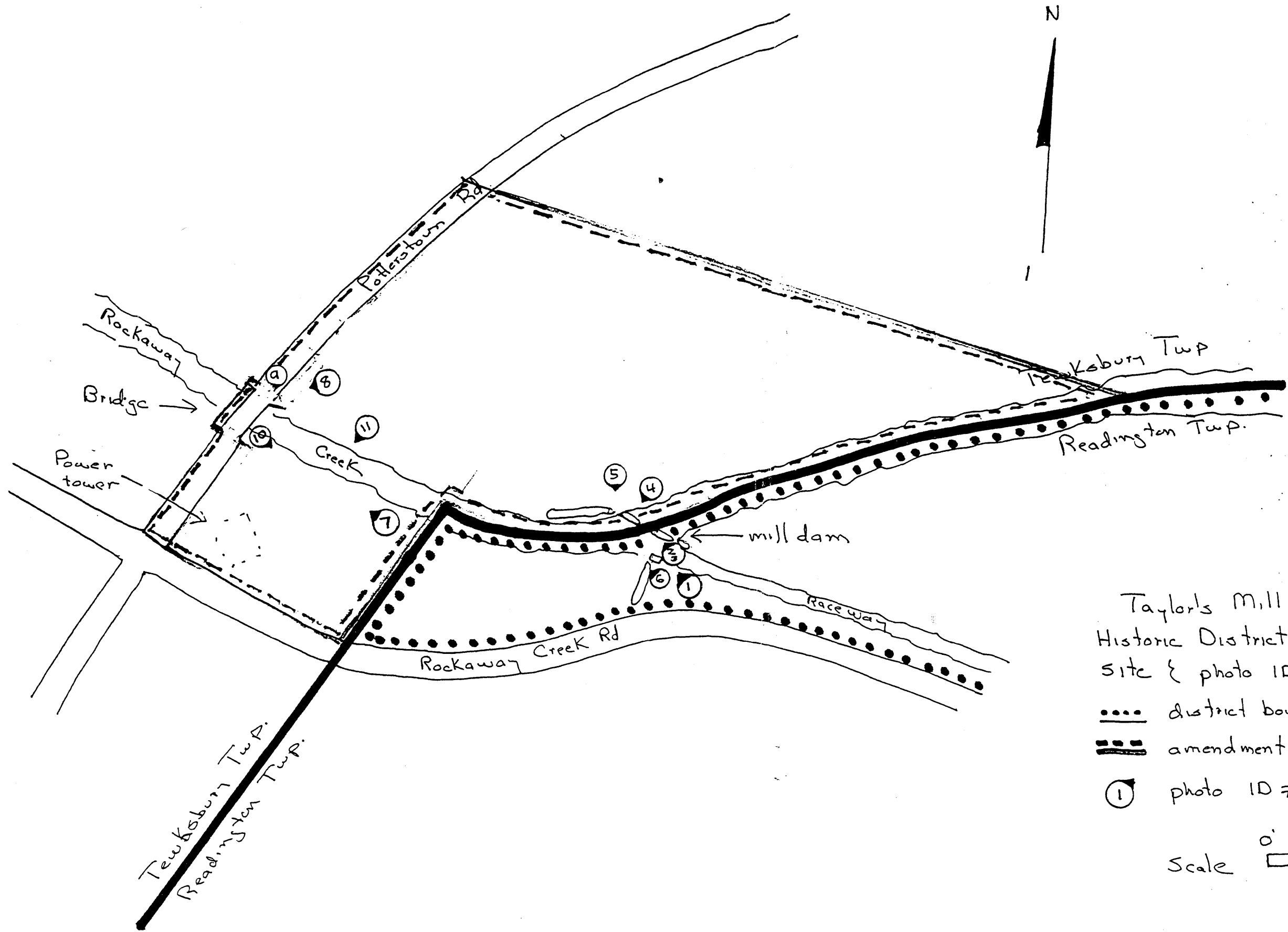


513

Taylor's Mill Historic
 District A. amendment
 ———— district boundary
 - - - - boundary of
 amendment
 scale 1" = 100'

Tewksbury Township, Hunterdon County, NJ

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Taylor's Mill
 Historic District Amendment
 site & photo ID map.

- district boundary
- amendment boundary
- ① photo ID #

