

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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RECEIVED JAN 26 1976
DATE ENTERED NOV 21 1975

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY -- NOMINATION FORM

SEE INSTRUCTIONS IN HOW TO COMPLETE NATIONAL REGISTER FORMS
TYPE ALL ENTRIES -- COMPLETE APPLICABLE SECTIONS

1 NAME

HISTORIC *the* ****** Nathan Cooper Grist Mill

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER *W of Chester at*
Hacklebarney Road *and N. J.*
at Route 24

CITY, TOWN

Chester Township *vic.* VICINITY OF

NOT FOR PUBLICATION
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Morris

CODE
027

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY	OWNERSHIP	STATUS	PRESENT USE
<input type="checkbox"/> DISTRICT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC	<input type="checkbox"/> OCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> BUILDING(S)	<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE	<input type="checkbox"/> UNOCCUPIED	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCIAL
<input type="checkbox"/> STRUCTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> BOTH	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> WORK IN PROGRESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PARK
<input type="checkbox"/> SITE	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PUBLIC ACQUISITION	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ACCESSIBLE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATIONAL
<input type="checkbox"/> OBJECT	<input type="checkbox"/> IN PROCESS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> YES: RESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> ENTERTAINMENT
	<input type="checkbox"/> BEING CONSIDERED	<input type="checkbox"/> YES: UNRESTRICTED	<input type="checkbox"/> GOVERNMENT
		<input type="checkbox"/> NO	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRIAL
			<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY
			<input type="checkbox"/> MUSEUM
			<input type="checkbox"/> PRIVATE RESIDENCE
			<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGIOUS
			<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENTIFIC
			<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
			<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME Morris County Park Commission

STREET & NUMBER
Box 1295 R

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER
Court Street

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE
New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory (685.1)

DATE
1974

FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS
Historic Sites Section, Department of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN
Trenton

STATE
New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

EXCELLENT
 GOOD
 FAIR

DETERIORATED
 RUINS
 UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

UNALTERED
 ALTERED

CHECK ONE

ORIGINAL SITE
 MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Nathan Cooper Grist Mill is a 3 story random fieldstone structure. Built in 1826, the front facade of the building is highlighted by rectangular stone lintel with keystones capping the fenestration. The 3 bays of the first two floors are spaced equidistance from one another and also the buildings' corners. The stones at the end of the facade are larger than those used in the main construction producing a quoin-like effect. The third floor, which is above the eaves, also has three bays, but sapped closer together than the first two bays. The center bays of all three floors are wide doorways to accommodate heavy usage. Near the peak is a circular opening. At the peak is a block and tackle apparatus.

There is a massive stone chimney off the side of the front facade.

Built on a slope, the full basement is clearly exposed in the sides and rear of the mill. Fenestrations of these facades are irregular.

Apparently originally using a water-wheel the ruins of the enclosing wheel house are evident. This foundation, attached to the main mill building, is of a different type of construction; being dry masonry and of a more regular form.

Presently owned by the Morris County Parks Commission which ultimately hopes to completely restore the mill.

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD	AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION		

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

The Nathan Cooper Grist Mill, constructed in 1826, is one of the areas few early 19th century stone grist mills and the last remaining one in Chester Township. This small mill, only a local concern, represents the interdependence necessary between farmers and the local miller in the 19th century.

The opening of the Morris Canal and the laying of railroads following the first quarter of the 19th century caused a decrease in the flow of traffic through Chester. In addition, improved roads no longer necessitated the formerly common overnight stays of travelers. As a result Chester declined economically between 1810 and 1850.

In spite of this decline in 1826 this grist mill was erected by Nathan A. Cooper, who inherited extensive farming lands, an iron mine, mineral properties, and a grist mill in 1818 when only 16 years old.

The present grist mill, however, does not appear to be the same mill property he inherited from his father. Instead, this mill property was acquired from Elias Howell in 1825. Howell had a 3 1/2 acre "mill lot" which included a "grist mill and saw mill on premises, mill wheel, mill stones, with all the machinery contained on the said grist mill, also the mill wheel." This mill, which dated to the late 18th century was destroyed by fire the same year Cooper acquired the property. Cooper then commenced to build the present stone grist mill which continued to grind grain up until the turn of the century.

Nathan Cooper (1802-1879) was a notable Morris County citizen - a gentleman farmer with ownership in several small agri-industrial pursuits. Cooper's influence is indicated in his numerous official positions, the most significant of which were Justice of Peace (1834) and one of three County Judges (1844). Cooper was also a commissioned Brigadier General in the Morris County cavalry of the State Militia.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Morris County, New Jersey, W. W. Mursell, 1882, (pp. 62, 76, 78, 211-12, 241, 243.

Deeds, Morris County, Administrative B & S Deed, Dbk R2-95, 1825.
Deed includes a map of the mill lot.

Verbal communications:

Joseph Hovance, Morris County Park Commission,
P.O. Box 1295R, Morristown, New Jersey

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	2	3	4	3	0	4	5	1	4	0	4	0
ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

B

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

C

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

D

ZONE				EASTING				NORTHING						

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

Nanci Kostrub - Research Assistant Historic Sites Section

ORGANIZATION

Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

STREET & NUMBER

P.O. Box 1420

TELEPHONE

609-292-2023

CITY OR TOWN

Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL XX

As the designated State Historic Preservation 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.

STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

TITLE Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE NOV 25 1975

FOR NPS USE ONLY

I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

Active

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE 11/21/96

ATTEST

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE 11.16.76