

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY
RECEIVED **DEC 29 1976**
DATE ENTERED **MAY 22 1978**

**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

Roebling Historic District

AND/OR COMMON

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

roughly between 1st & 2nd St. by Roebling Park; South St., 2nd & 8th Ave, Palmyra St., Alder, Riverview, Harmony & Country Aves.
Between Riverside and Hornberger Avenues
and 2nd and 8th Streets

CITY, TOWN

Roebling

— VICINITY OF

— NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

COUNTY

Burlington

CODE

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

DISTRICT

BUILDING(S)

STRUCTURE

SITE

OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

PUBLIC

PRIVATE

BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

IN PROCESS

BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

OCCUPIED

UNOCCUPIED

WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

YES: RESTRICTED

YES: UNRESTRICTED

NO

PRESENT USE

AGRICULTURE

COMMERCIAL

EDUCATIONAL

ENTERTAINMENT

GOVERNMENT

INDUSTRIAL

MILITARY

MUSEUM

PARK

PRIVATE RESIDENCE

RELIGIOUS

SCIENTIFIC

TRANSPORTATION

OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Multiple

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Roebling

— VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Burlington County Courthouse

STREET & NUMBER

49 Rancocas Road

CITY, TOWN

Mount Holly

STATE

New Jersey 08060

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

1976

— FEDERAL STATE — COUNTY — LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

CITY, TOWN

Trenton

STATE
New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> MOVED DATE _____
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Roebling Historic District consists of a residential and commercial area immediately contiguous to the Roebling steel mill and wire rope factory, Roebling, New Jersey. The district houses approximately four-thousand people and is located in Florence Township, Burlington County, ten miles below Trenton on the Delaware River. Roebling was founded in 1904 and was built beginning in 1905 as a planned, industrial town for the workers in the mills of the John A. Roebling's Sons' Company, the well-known Trenton manufacturer of steel wires and bridge cables.

The original residential area of Roebling occupies a rectangle of about fifty acres, oriented to the cardinal points of the compass; and is located just to the west of the plant complex. Two major parkways, Main Street and Fifth Avenue, are approximately eighty feet wide with median planting, and intersect at a circle in the center of this rectangle. Located at the head of the principal east-west parkway, Main Street, is a gate house (1) which served as the main entrance to the plant. This 1½-story, stucco covered brick structure is a rectangular mass which runs lengthwise along the east side of Second Avenue. An extension of Main Street runs under a covered passageway through this building and into the plant. The passageway is framed with semi-elliptical wood joists, approximately three feet on center, supporting a cross gable roof.

Along the north side of Main Street, between Fourth and Fifth Avenues and facing the circle, the Roebling General Store (2) was constructed. This two-story brick building, provided by the company in the original town plan, remains as one of the dominant landmarks of Roebling. Architectural features include: 1.) arched window heads formed by double header courses of brick; 2.) stone window sills; 3.) Victorian shop windows on the south facade facing Main Street; and 4.) a bracketed wood cornice accented rhythmically by light and heavy brackets in the ratio 3:1. The cornice on the Fifth Avenue side of the building runs for a distance of two bays; then juts upward forming a gable on this end of the building. Centered in this gable on the attic level is a round opening in the brick infilled with wood louvers. Inset below this opening is a carved sandstone with the date, "A.D. 1905". The plan is basically half of an "H" with the legs of the "H" facing Fourth and Fifth Avenues. However, the corner facing the circle is cut off at a 45° angle, and the original main entrance

8 SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input checked="" 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 checked="" 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 type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) immigrant experience	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Roebing, New Jersey, formerly known as Kinkora, is a particularly successful example of a planned, industrial community. Disclaiming utopian or altruistic motives, John A. Roebing's Sons' Company President, Charles G. Roebing, and Ferdinand W. Roebing, Secretary and Treasurer, planned and built the town asserting that they were "doing only what we are driven to do by force of circumstances". Nevertheless, not only was every material need of employees provided for, but the plan of the community includes architectural amenities that rival or surpass earlier planned communities such as Pullman, Illinois and Lowell, Massachusetts. The plan for the town reflects in graphic terms the thinking of enlightened, but not progressive, turn-of-the-century industrialists. Since the location of their new plant in rural Burlington County required them to house their entire workforce, the Roebing brothers felt it prudent to build well and for durability. This was the extent of their philosophy -- modest yet generous, not exploitative, but by no means utopian or progressive. The Roebings kept the sliding-wage scale and the open shop, and offered neither the eight-hour day nor the forty-four hour week. No ideals were being promoted and no novel conditions of industrial relations were being tested. The company issued no scrip, paid the employees in cash, and charged cash at the stores. The Roebings desired to avoid the pitfalls of earlier company towns which they called "paternalism" and they professed non-interference in the social affairs of the town. By all this they desired to avoid future labor unrest. This purpose, along with the desire of insuring themselves a good supply of skilled labor in a remote area, seems to explain their unusually low rents, high wages, and their willingness to accept the annual deficit in the operation of the town, as Charles Roebing put it: "as good business".

The combination of several economic factors first produced the decision to build in Burlington County. At the beginning of this century, open-hearth steel was starting to dominate the steel industry.

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

New York Herald, "Kinkora," April 22, 1906
Schuyler, Hamilton, The Roeblings 1831-1931, Princeton, 1931, pp. 360-365.
Steelmakers, Produced for N. J. Public Broadcasting, by Scott Neilsen
 and John Tyson, 1974. (Ken Stein, Executive Producer)
Trenton Times, 11/9/64.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 75 3/4 acres

UTM REFERENCES See map

A 18 | 519460 | 4441000
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

B 18 | 518530 | 44410800
 ZONE EASTING NORTHING

c 18 | 519180 | 4440120

D 18 | 5199100 | 44410560

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

(See attached sheet -- Item 10, Page 1.)

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

Michael Mills, Architectural Historian for Burl Co. Cultural & Hert. Comm.

ORGANIZATION

Heritage Studies

DATE

1/27/76

STREET & NUMBER

10 Nassau Street

TELEPHONE

(609) 924-1728

CITY OR TOWN

Princeton

STATE

New Jersey

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION

THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:

NATIONAL

STATE

LOCAL

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 [Signature]

May 5, 1976

TITLE

Commissioner, Department of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

ATTEST:

[Signature]

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5/28/76

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

5.4.78

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to the building was located on this facade. This building is laid up in common bond with header courses every seventh row, as are most of the brick structures in Roebing.

Further down the north side of Main Street, between Sixth and Seventh Avenues, the Roebing Municipal Building (3) was erected. This rectangular two and one-half story, brick structure is Colonial Revival in style, with some Spanish influences seen in its stucco panels keyed into the brickwork and in its clay tile pent roof around three sides of the building's main section. The building contains much decorative stone work including: splayed keystones, stone consoles supporting a second floor balcony with stone balustrade, and stone architrave surrounding a large, semi-circular window located centrally on the second floor of the entrance facade. A modern one-story, brick garage addition to the west serves as the present engine house.

The other buildings on Main Street provided in the original town plan are the several, large, one-family houses (4) which the Roebing company built for its highest grade foremen. These two and one-half story, rather simply detailed, brick houses are located on the southwest corner of Fourth and Main, on the southwest corner of Fifth and Main at the circle, on the north-east and southeast corners of Sixth and Main, and finally on the southwest corner of Eighth and Main. These houses differ slightly from one another generally due to modern alterations. However, two of these, the houses located at Fifth and Eighth Avenues, are of a different style. They have their northeast corners cut at a 45° angle, similar to the form of the General Store.

Located between Second and Eighth Avenues, the east-west limits of the original town plan, are a few, more recent buildings. Two of these, conspicuously located on Main Street, are a Georgian Revival bank on the southeast corner of the circle, and the modern, Roebing Post Office diagonally opposite. (see site map) The bank is fairly successful at maintaining the scale and spatial relationships of the circle. However, the boxy Post Office, set back with a parking area near the street, must be regarded as an intrusion.

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The northern and southern boundaries of this original residential section are Riverside and Hornberger Avenues, respectively. Between Riverside Avenue and the Delaware River is a park which was part of the original town plan, and figured prominently in town culture as a center for amateur sports. Facing north onto this park is the Village Tavern (5), originally run by the company but now privately owned. This two and one-half story, brick building inscribes a huge rectangle, eight bays wide and four bays deep. It has a hipped roof with one dormer on each of the hipped ends, and three dormers on the north side of the roof each containing a double window. Three glazed, double doors on the north facade lead out onto a late Victorian, wood veranda supported on brick piers, which wraps around the gable ends of the building. Also facing the park are several two-family houses (6A) probably built for higher grade foremen. These two and a half-story brick houses are a total of four bays wide, divided into two units by a party wall. The houses have simple, Victorian detailing, with a two story bay on each gable end, a pitched roof pierced by two gable dormers each side, and a soldier course of brick at the window heads forming a segmental arch.

The bulk of the workmen's houses front east and west on one-way north/south side streets (those numbered Second through Eighth) which run between these two Avenues. The houses can be divided into two generic types: two family houses (6 A-E), and rowhouses (7 A-E). The first rowhouses built (7A) are located closest to the plant on Second and Third Avenues. On the south side of Main Street, the buildings extend one and one-half blocks; however, on the north side, they extend only one complete block. On each full block there exist six rowhouse buildings; making up a total of fifteen type 7A buildings. A single rowhouse building of this type generally consists of ten units. (Two buildings of eight units each to the north of Main Street are the exceptions.) Each unit is two bays wide, two rooms deep, and two and one half stories tall. The north and south end units have a cross gable roof facing the street, and a round opening infilled with wood louvers centered in the gable. The original trim consisted of a wood bracketed cornice, and a Victorian front porch with turned wood columns. Presently, many sections of cornice have been replaced with simpler, more modern

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trim and many of the porches have been enclosed or replaced.

Another rowhouse type (7B) is located on the east side of Fourth Avenue only between Hornberger and Main Street. Originally, there existed three buildings of this type, all used as hotels for single workers. Presently, only the building on the corner of Hornberger and Fourth remains in nearly its original condition. This common-bond, brick building is now divided into eight, two-bay wide units. It is three stories tall, two bays deep, and has approximately a twenty-five foot set-back from the sidewalk, further than other rowhouse types in Roebbling. The present gable roof on this structure is a replacement for an earlier hipped roof, and most of the porches are modern replacements as well. Moving northward, the second hotel is no longer extant, having been torn down to make way for a modern lodge hall. The final building in the row, on the corner of Main Street, has been converted to apartments, painted white, and has had a pseudo-Colonial portico added to the front. As the building's scale has been altered adversely by these modern "improvements", it should be considered an intrusion in the district; as should the modern lodge hall.

Other two family house types remain in the original residential area of Roebbling. One of these types (6B), built for the "higher grade employees"¹, is almost identical to type (6A) except for the absence of the two-story Victorian bays and porches on the gable ends. These double houses are located as follows: 1.) on the block directly behind the Village Tavern bounded by Third Avenue, Fourth Avenue, and Main Street; 2.) on the west side of Fourth Avenue north of Main Street, and 3.) on the east side of Sixth Avenue between Main Street and Hornberger. Another two family type (6C) was built for employees of "medium grade".² These are simple, rather boxy, two and one-half story brick houses which have their gable ends facing the street.

1. "Kinkora", page 5

2. Ibid.

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four

They originally had late Victorian, wood porches with hipped roofs across their front facades, most of which have been either enclosed or replaced. Locations of this (6C) type are: 1.) on the west side of Fourth Avenue between Main and Hornberger; 2.) on both sides of Fifth Avenue from Riverside to Hornberger; and 3.) on the east side of Sixth Avenue north of Main Street. The third two-family type (6D) is located on the east side of Sixth Avenue moving south from Riverside. Only three examples of this rather grand and unusual two-and-a-half-story brick house remain. The house is basically four bays wide with projecting end wings. It has a pitched roof with two dormers each side, flat stone lintels and sills, late Victorian screened porches with pitched roofs, and Victorian half-timbering in the gable ends, in the dormers, and in the porch gables.

The original rectangular plan of Roebling was not filled out entirely in 1905; as evidenced by another group of rowhouses and two-family houses with more modern detailing, located in the neighborhood of the Municipal Building on Sixth, Seventh, and Eight Avenues. The two story rowhouses (7C) are architecturally similar to the Municipal Building with Spanish influences in their detailing, including stucco panels keyed into exterior brick walls and brick arches framing a rear entry on the end walls of the buildings. The two-and-a-half-story, two-family houses (6E), while basically similar to the rowhouses in style, are less successful in maintaining the feeling and scale of the town because of greater variations in architectural detail from building to building. However, because of their observance of a common set-back and their predominant use of brick, they do effectively fill out the original town plan. These buildings are a greater distance from the steel plant than the earlier additions to the town (see below), which helps explain their more modern architectural style.

As the Roebling Steel Plant prospered and grew through the first quarter of the twentieth century, the number of dwelling units needed and built increased accordingly. Several groups

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of rowhouses were built in stages soon after the original rectangle was laid out. In an apparent effort to keep housing close to the plant, these groups were sited: 1.) to the south of Hornberger Avenue on extensions of Fourth and Fifth Avenues, and 2.) on a tract of land to the southeast of the original residential district and immediately to the south of the plant.

The rowhouses of Fourth and Fifth Avenues (7D) are two-story brick structures, ten units wide with a unit consisting of two bays. The massing of the front facades makes these buildings more interesting architecturally than the original rowhouses. The buildings consist of an eight bay wide central block, then have four bays on either side set slightly back, and finally terminate with two projecting end bays with a gable facing the street. Centrally located within this gable is a decorative diamond motif in molded brick. The buildings contain decorative brick corbelling above entry doors and at the base of the parapet wall which hides the roof. These buildings have brick stoops with cement steps rather than the wood front porches.

The group of rowhouses to the south of the plant (7E), on Railroad and Amboy Avenues, are quite simple in style, and fulfill only basic housing needs with no architectural pretensions. These boxy, two-story buildings are located directly on the sidewalk with the only decorative elements being the arched window heads and dentiled brick cornice. These buildings also have brick stoops with cement steps, covered by metal shed roofs on triangular wood supports. Three buildings of this type were also built on an extension of Sixth Avenue south of Hornberger.

In addition to the newer residential areas, a concentration of early 20th century commercial structures and churches developed on Alden and Norman Avenues, an area to the south and west of the plant, but at a central location with respect to the residential neighborhoods. Though this area has declined, many of the buildings are of architectural interest. The corner store (8) at the intersection of Hornberger and Norman (now vacant) is a

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beautifully detailed, Victorian commercial structure with a corner turret supported by a steel column. A two-story, late Victorian building (9) with a double storefront and datestone reading "1911" is an example of the predominant architectural style on Alden Avenue. St. Nicholas Byzantine Church (10), between Alden and Norman Avenues, is one of the churches reflecting the ethnic composition of Roebing. Others include St. Mary's Romanian Catholic Church on Alden Avenue, and the Hungarian Reformed Church on Norman Avenue.

All of the residential and commercial areas previously described are compatible in materials, detailing, and scale; as are their individual buildings. Thus, the buildings and groups of buildings mentioned should be considered as integral parts of the town of Roebing; and they, in toto, make up the Roebing Historic District.

Inventory of Historic Structures Located Within The Roebing Historic District

1. Gatehouse (2nd Avenue & Main Street): Late Victorian, 1½ stories, stucco-covered, central passageway.
2. General Store (Fifth Avenue & Main Street): Late Victorian commercial structure, 2 stories, common bond brick with arched window heads, datestone reads "1905."
3. Roebing Municipal Building (Main Street & 7th Avenue): Neo-Colonial with Spanish influences, 2 stories, brick with decorative stonework.
4. One-Family Houses (Main Street and 4th, 5th, 6th & 8th Avenues): Early 20th Century, 2½ stories, brick, gable roof with 3 dormers.
5. Village Tavern (Riverside Avenue between 3rd & 4th): Late Victorian, 2½ stories, brick with hipped roof and veranda around three sides.

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6. Type 6A Two-Family Houses (Riverside Ave.): 2½ story, brick, common bond, gable roof with 2 dormers each side, 2 story bays on gable ends.
- 14 7. Type 7A Rowhouses (Second & Third Avenues): 2 story, 10 units wide, brick with arched window heads, late Victorian wood porches.
- 1 8. Type 7B Rowhouses (4th Ave. between Main & Hornberger): 3 story, 8 units wide, brick, common bond with arch window heads, pitched roof, wood porches.
- 1 9. Type 6B Two-Family Houses (Third, Fourth, & Sixth Avenues): 2½ story, brick, common bond, gable roof with 2 dormers each side, Late Victorian wood porches.
- 24 10. Type 6C Two-Family Houses (Fourth, Fifth, Sixth Avenues): 2½ story, brick, common bond, gable roof with gable facing the street, Late Victorian wood porches.
- 3 11. Type 6D Two-Family Houses. (East side of Sixth Avenue near Riverside): 2½ story, brick, flat stone lintels and sills; Victorian half-timbering in gable ends, in dormers, and in porch gables.
- 9 12. Type 7C Rowhouses (7th & 8th Avenues): Early 20th Century, 2 story brick buildings with stucco infill panels, 10 units wide, wood porches.
- 11 13. Type 7D Rowhouses (Fourth & Fifth Avenues, South of Hornberger): Early 20th Century, 2 story, brick buildings, 10 units wide with projecting end wings, and decorative brick corbelling.
- 2 14. Type 7E Rowhouses (Sixth Avenue, Railroad Avenue & Amboy Avenue): Early 20th Century, 2 story, brick buildings, 10 units wide, simply detailed.
15. Commercial Building (Corner Hornberger & Norman): Late Victorian, 2 story brick building, with store windows, metal corner turret supported by steel column.

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16. Commercial Building (Aldan Avenue): Late Victorian, 2 story brick building with double store front, datestone reads, "1911."
17. St. Nicholas Byzantine Church (Roland Street): Early 20th Century religious building with entrance tower; brick, one story with basement.

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The Roeblings became convinced that in order to maintain a competitive position in the industry, their company would need to make its own open-hearth steel. Steel making was a new proposition for the Roebling company. Formerly, they had bought all of the steel rods required for the manufacture of their wires and cables, but sources had become expensive and unreliable. However, making their own steel meant doubling the plant and the workforce. There was no room for this expansion in the area of the Trenton plant, and acquiring any more land in Trenton would have been prohibitively expensive. Instead, a 237-acre tract of land was purchased in 1904, situated a mile below the hamlet of Kinkora in Burlington County. This location was chosen because access to both water and rail was readily available. The industrial plant as built in 1905 consisted of one steel making mill and two rod mills, with shops for the other, supportive processes and conveniently sited rail loading facilities. The railroad transported the steel rods made in Roebling to the finishing plants in Trenton on specially purchased cars pulled by company owned locomotives. Delaware River frontage was improved to enable receipt of raw materials by water. River water, filtered at a company plant, provided the industrial and also the municipal water supply. It is remarkable that all of the industrial, commercial, and residential designing and engineering was done entirely by the office force of the Roebling company.

The town buildings themselves reflect no original architectural solutions to the question of workers' housing. They are interesting, however, in their reflection of the company hierarchy and the various income and social levels of their occupants. The dwellings include rowhouses and two-family homes principally. However, three hotels for single employees were also provided. Company-provided amenities included free water, sewage treatment, street lighting, and street, yard and home maintenance. Rents were small and merely satisfied the interest on the \$4 million investment made by the Roebling brothers. A company-owned club was set up with a liquor license to accommodate the workmen's propensities to drink. A park

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overlooking the Delaware River was provided and a baseball field was added. Shade trees were planted everywhere along the streets which remain today, and the fruit trees were planted in the backyards. Although the properties are now privately owned and the company no longer serves as the economic base for the town, these planning amenities continue to preserve this area as a viable, indeed desirable, residential community. The low turn-over rate reflects this community's stability. Although the plant's operation has been sporadic over the last few years, as soon as the plant reopens, the workers generally return from jobs elsewhere to work in the Roebling factory.

An important part of Roebling's history lies in the experiences of its people. The town attracted immigrant workers from many central European nations, and became a cultural melting pot. A group of Swedes were among the first to arrive. They had steel making experience and helped to fashion the mills into working plants. Then came immigrants from Russia, Rumania, Hungary, Poland, Ireland and Lithuania. They organized and built the several churches which stand on the outskirts of the commercial district. These include St. Nicholas Byzantine Church, St. Mary's Catholic Church, and the Hungarian Reformed Church. Pride in a job well done seems to be a common denominator among these workers. Many of the older workers are still quick to mention that the wire rope they helped produce is supporting the George Washington Bridge, New York City, the Golden Gate Bridge in San Francisco, and the Bear Mountain Bridge on the Hudson River.

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Verbal Boundary Description

The Roebling Historic District is entered on Hornberger Avenue which intersects with U. S. Route 130, south of town. The southern boundary of the district starts from Hornburger Avenue and runs east behind the rowhouses on Amboy Avenue, north along the connecting Peace Street and west following Railroad Avenue. The boundary then follows Hornberger north and west, turning due north along Second Avenue, with a jog to include the plant gatehouse, and then turns west to follow the limits of Roebling Park. This course returns the boundary west along Riverside Avenue, thence south following Eighth Avenue, jogging again to include one house which was part of the original town plan. The district line then turns eastward along Hornberger until Sixth Avenue where it again turns south. The line follows Sixth to South Street, turns east to Fourth Avenue, runs north behind the rowhouses on Fourth Avenue, and then follows Hornberger back to Aldan Avenue where the commercial district is located. The boundary then runs west to Roland Street, south to Norman Avenue, and then east behind the buildings on Norman Avenue back to Hornberger Avenue and starting point of the district line.