

NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM

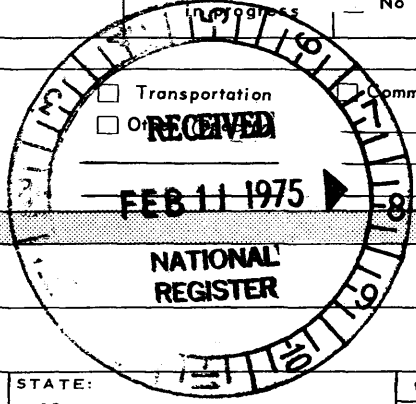
(Type all entries - complete applicable sections)

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Morris
FOR NPS USE ONLY
ENTRY DATE: FEB 20 1975

1. NAME
COMMON:
AND/OR HISTORIC: Ralston Historic District

2. LOCATION
STREET AND NUMBER: 1 mi. W of Mendham approx 24 and Route 24 and Roxiticus Road
CITY OR TOWN: Mendham Township
CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT: Fifth
STATE: New Jersey
CODE: 34
COUNTY: Morris
CODE: 027

3. CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY (Check One): [X] District, [] Building, [] Site, [] Object
OWNERSHIP: [] Public, [X] Private, [] Both
STATUS: [X] Occupied, [] Unoccupied, [] Preservation work
ACCESSIBLE TO THE PUBLIC: [] Restricted, [X] Unrestricted, [] No
PRESENT USE (Check One or More as Appropriate): [] Agricultural, [] Commercial, [] Educational, [] Entertainment, [] Government, [] Industrial, [] Military, [X] Museum, [] Park, [X] Private Residence, [] Religious, [] Scientific, [] Transportation, [] Other



4. OWNER OF PROPERTY
OWNER'S NAME: Numerous
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Mendham
STATE: New Jersey
CODE: 34

5. LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE, REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.: Hall of Records
STREET AND NUMBER: Court Street
CITY OR TOWN: Morristown
STATE: New Jersey
CODE: 34

6. REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE OF SURVEY: Historic American Buildings Survey (NJ-339, 357) (NJHSI-1963.26 & 3)
DATE OF SURVEY: 1939 [X] Federal [] State [] County [] Local
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS: Library of Congress
STREET AND NUMBER:
CITY OR TOWN: Washington
STATE: D. C.
CODE: 14

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

STATE: New Jersey
COUNTY: Morris
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7. DESCRIPTION

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

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (if known) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The Ralston Industrial Complex is located one mile west of Mendham at Roxiticus Road and Route 24. Route 24, which was just recently improved and widened, is terribly close to the Mill, Post Office, and, on the other side of the road, the Cotton and Woolen Mill. The Manor House, however, is not endangered by the highway at present, although the owner of the house has voiced a feeling for demolishing the building.

General Store.

The General Store, built around 1786, is a 1 1/2 story clapboard building with gable roof and front overhang. There is a small gable end brick chimney in the east end. The store has three bays, one an offset center door. The two front windows are 20/15 sash with batten board shutters. The frame of the store is hand hewn oak. The clapboard on the rear and sides is oak, while the front is covered with wide tongued and grooved pine boards.

The building served as a general store for the Mill and community until 1892. At that time it was converted into the Ralston Post Office.

Most likely the store was a one room (31' by 25') building with storage space in the attic and the basement. When it became a Post Office the store was made into three small rooms.

Mill.

The Mill was built just prior to the American Revolution. It is a 2 1/2 story stone structure. The stone is uncoursed rubble with corner quoins. The west elevation has a clapboard gable end. The Mill was converted into a residence in 1940. The conversion changed the windows, added dormers, and installed a center chimney. Although the exterior is basically intact and most of the original frame still remains, the entire interior of the mill was converted into a home in 1940 using many of the old mill pieces. Just above the Mill is the remains of the dam, pond, and raceway which supplied water power to the mill.

Manor House.

The Manor House was built in 1781 and is a 2 1/2 story clapboard building with a gambrel roof and paired gable end brick chimneys. The house has five bays and a center hall. There is a small porch over the center door. The windows are now Victorian, being changed in the 1880's from the original 12/12 sash. Inside, there are two rooms to each side of the hall, each having fireplaces with Federal mantels.

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

8. SIGNIFICANCE

PERIOD (Check One or More as Appropriate)

- Pre-Columbian | 16th Century | 18th Century | 20th Century
 15th Century | 17th Century | 19th Century

SPECIFIC DATE(S) (If Applicable and Known) 1781, 1786, 1892

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 checked="" type="checkbox"/> Other (Specify) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Historic | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Industry | | <u>First Post</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Agriculture | <input type="checkbox"/> Invention | <input type="checkbox"/> Science | <u>Office of</u> |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Landscape Architecture | <input type="checkbox"/> Sculpture | <u>Ralston</u> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Art | <input type="checkbox"/> Literature | <input type="checkbox"/> Social/Humanitarian | _____ |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Commerce | <input type="checkbox"/> Military | <input type="checkbox"/> Theater | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Communications | <input type="checkbox"/> Music | <input type="checkbox"/> Transportation | _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conservation | | | _____ |

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Commerce.

John Logan, builder of the mill, claimed he supplied the Continental Army with supplies while they were encamped at Morristown. He later presented the government with a thirty thousand dollar claim for payment, but it was never paid.

Industry.

Logan eventually lost his mill, and in 1786 John Ralston purchased it at a sheriff's sale. During Ralston's ownership (1786-1819) a thriving early American industrial community developed. The grist mill, store, cotton and woolen mill, lumber and saw mill, and several other small enterprises comprised of Ralston's businesses, of which the mill, the general store, and the cotton and woolen mill are still extant.

Other. (First Post Office of Ralston)

The general store became Ralston's first Post Office in 1892, and functioned as such until 1941.

Architecture.

The Manor House is a fine example of Federal style architecture and has a good deal of original hardware such as strap hinges, wrought iron latches and handles and door locks intact as well as eight Federal style fireplace mantels.

Commerce/Industry.

In the late 18th century the business center of Mendham Township was at the crossroads of Roxiticus Road and the William Penn Highway which was locally called Ralston. It was so named because the mill, manor house, general store, and, later, the cotton and woolen factory at the intersection were all owned, along with several thousand acres of area farmland, by John Ralston from 1786-1819. Although the business center of the township shifted to the center of the town of Mendham in the mid-19th century leaving Ralston

SEE INSTRUCTIONS

9. MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

The Mendhams. Mayor's Tercentenary Committee, Brookside, New Jersey: 1964.
 Ralston-Nesbitt Papers. Owned by Hugh Nesbitt and Edwin Thompson.
 Morris County Records.
 Historic American Buildings Survey. New Jersey-339, 357.

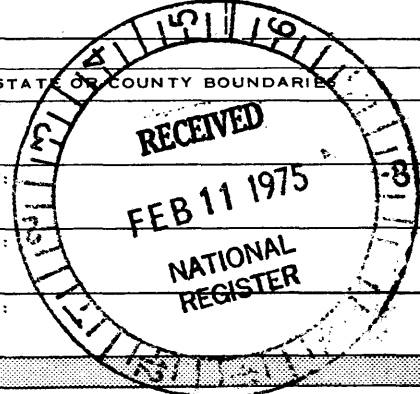
10. GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING A RECTANGLE LOCATING THE PROPERTY			O R	LATITUDE AND LONGITUDE COORDINATES DEFINING THE CENTER POINT OF A PROPERTY OF LESS THAN TEN ACRES		
CORNER	LATITUDE	LONGITUDE		LATITUDE	LONGITUDE	
	Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds		Degrees Minutes Seconds	Degrees Minutes Seconds	
NW	° ' "	° ' "		40 46 16	74 37 31	
NE	° ' "	° ' "				
SE	° ' "	° ' "				
SW	° ' "	° ' "				

APPROXIMATE ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY: 5

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

STATE:	CODE	COUNTY	CODE



UTM 18/531620 4513200 HL
SEE INSTRUCTIONS

11. FORM PREPARED BY

NAME AND TITLE:
 Historic Sites Section Staff (Terry Karschner, Historian)

ORGANIZATION: Dept. of Environmental Protection
 DATE: April 2, 1973

STREET AND NUMBER:
 Post Office Box 1420

CITY OR TOWN: Trenton
 STATE: New Jersey
 CODE: 34

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

Name: David J. Bardin
 Title: Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection
 Date: February 4, 1975

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

A R Marlette
 Director, Office of Archeology and Historic Preservation

Date: 2/20/75

ATTEST:
Sheila Henry
 Keeper of The National Register

Date: 2-19-75

**NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES
INVENTORY - NOMINATION FORM**

(Continuation Sheet)

STATE New Jersey	
COUNTY Morris	
FOR NPS USE ONLY	
ENTRY NUMBER	DATE
	FEB 20 1975

(Number all entries)

Ralston Historic District
Mendham Township
Morris County: 027
New Jersey: 34

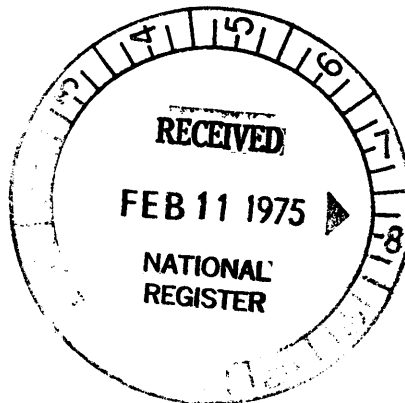
7. Description (cont.)

The kitchen fireplace had, at one time, a Dutch bake oven, now bricked up. To the rear of the hallway is the stairway to the upstairs. The second floor is identical to the first.

Cotton and Woolen Factory.

Originally built in the early 19th century this building is a 2 1/2 story frame and shingle structure with a stone foundation built along the bank of India Brook. The roof is gable. The building has been extensively altered to accomodate a family residence.

The entire district has only four buildings, all of them described above.



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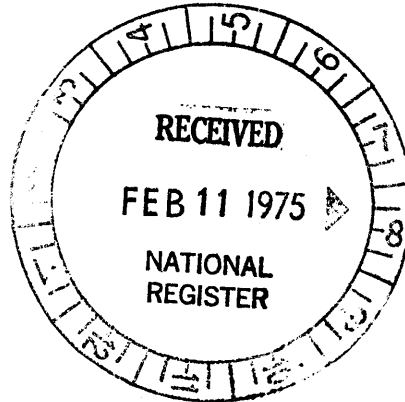
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Ralston Historic District
Mendham Township
Morris County: 027
New Jersey: 34

8. Significance

isolated, the mill continued to operate and the name continued to be Ralston. Even when the owners were no longer Ralstons' the name stuck.

This complex exemplifies the fast disappearing early American industrial concept -- a small active business or two, a manor house up on the hill nearby, and a general store alongside the mill in order to supply customers (mostly farmers) with their most every need. Few of these 18th century complexes exists in New Jersey today.



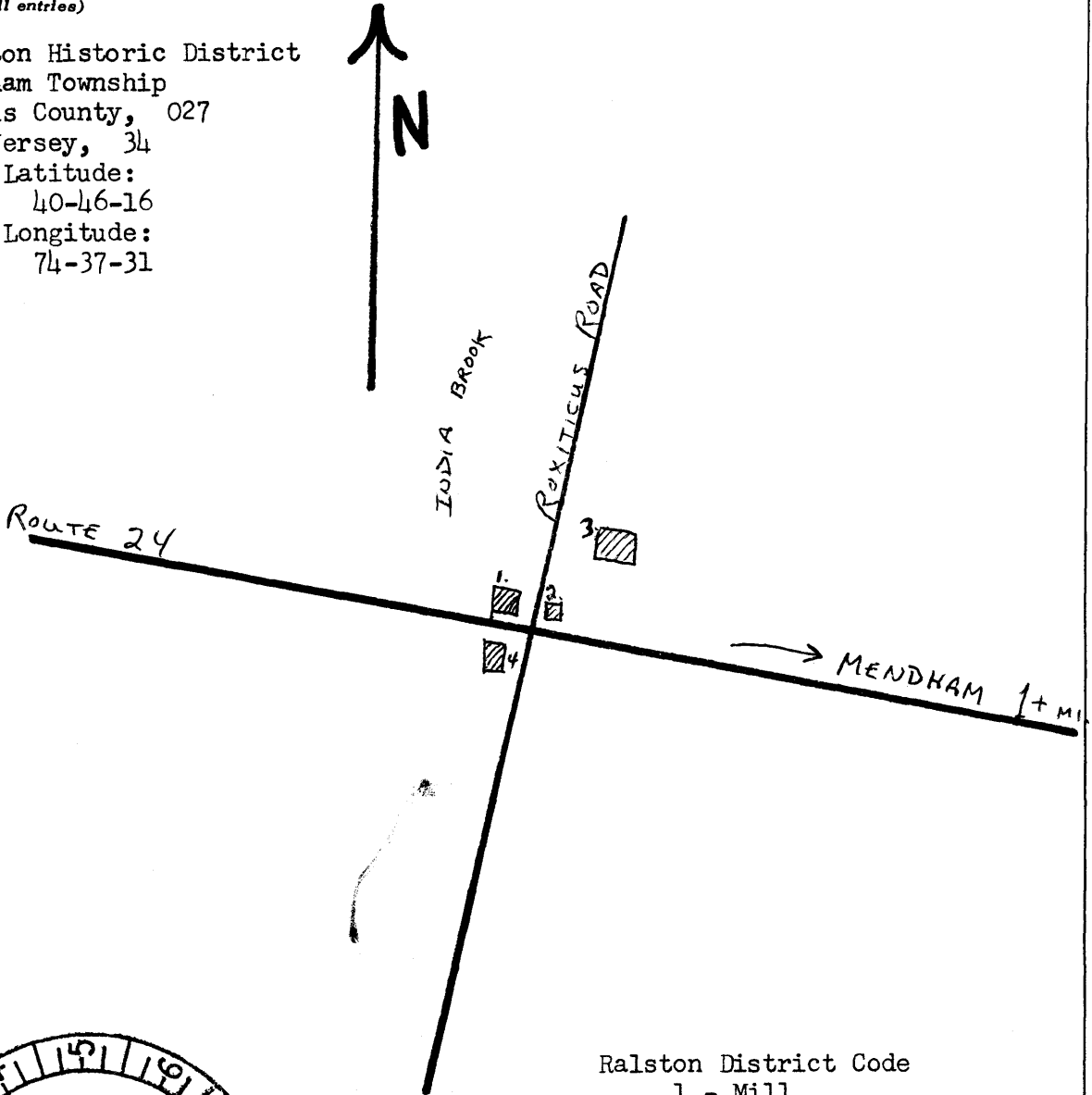
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(Number all entries)

Ralston Historic District
 Mendham Township
 Morris County, 027
 New Jersey, 34
 Latitude:
 40-46-16
 Longitude:
 74-37-31



- Ralston District Code
- 1 - Mill
 - 2 - General Store
 - 3 - Manor House
 - 4 - Cotten & Woolen Mill

Scale: 1:6,000 (approx.)

