

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
 NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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

DATA SHEET

FOR NPS USE ONLY

RECEIVED MAY 19 1975

DATE ENTERED

JUN 18 1975

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

HISTORIC

Slater's Mill

AND/OR COMMON

Joseph Slater's Felt Mill

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

96 Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike

NOT FOR PUBLICATION

CITY, TOWN

Riverdale

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

13th

STATE

New Jersey

CODE

34

COUNTY

Morris

CODE

027

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: Vacant
4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

John Greco

STREET & NUMBER

93 Newark-Pompton Turnpike

CITY, TOWN

Riverdale

VICINITY OF

STATE

New Jersey 07457

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTIONCOURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC.

Hall of Records

STREET & NUMBER

CITY, TOWN

Morristown

STATE

New Jersey

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

New Jersey Historic Sites Inventory

DATE

 FEDERAL STATE COUNTY LOCAL
DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDSHistoric Sites Section
Dept. of Environmental Protection

CITY, TOWN

Box 1420, Trenton

STATE

New Jersey

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input 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 main structure, circa 1850, is a 3 1/2 story clapboard rectangular mill factory building (32' x 40') constructed on sloping land. The basement, exposed in the rear, is random stone construction, later patched with brick. The raceway arch in the basement has been bricked and cemented in the eastern facade. The west facade archway is still open. All of the clapboard had stucco applied in the 2nd quarter of the 20th century.

The slate roof is gambrel with the gable end front facing the highway. There were three bays on each of the levels up to the eaves. The first level had a side entrance, but the remaining two floors had center doorways. At present the doorway on the 2nd floor and the bays on the 3rd floor of the front facade have been walled up. In addition the first floor window placements have been altered and another entrance has been added. The eastern facade of the building has 4 bays each on the first two levels. The west facade has no visible apertures.

In the 20th century a small one story clapboard unit with gable roof was built onto the west facade of the mill. Used as either a tea room or small store in the 1920's this unit has also been stuccoed.

The main frame of the mill is constructed of hand hewn timbers with wooden pegged mortise and tenon joints. Floors are random width pine boards.

A number of elements of the turbine machinery are still within the building (a long iron drive shaft, a large cast-iron gear, etc.), but are partially open to the elements and decaying.

The building is vacant, unprotected, and deteriorating.

On the property are a number of stone or concrete walls and one dwelling.

The dwelling in the rear of the mill is a two story frame house, possibly a superintendent's cottage, which is in poor condition.

To the west of the house is a concrete block wall, perhaps constructed in an attempt to hold back the Pequannock River which it abuts.

Attached to the concrete block wall is a rectangular random stone foundation of undetermined function.

West and south of these foundations are a number of other stone walls with a spillway indicating a mill pond of water collected from the Pequannock and channeled into 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 checked="" 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 1849-1903

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

Industry

Slater's Felt Mill is an important remnant of New Jersey's industrial past being one of the few extant physical reminders of the felt factories of the mid-19th century.

Men's soft felt hats, made of animal fur, were quite popular in the United States in the mid-1850's.

The Oranges of Essex County were generally the most prominent hatters in the state, but a number of small factories were scattered throughout much of northern New Jersey.

The Slater Felt Mill had a direct connection with the Oranges - Joseph Slater having operated a successful cloth-making business in the town until settling in Riverdale in 1849.

In Riverdale Slater established a factory for cutting and renovating small animal furs, particularly beaver. Much of the felt fur produced was used in making the famous Stetson hats of Essex County.

Slater's Mill is the last of a series of successive mills built at this location. Each in turn was destroyed by fire, flood, or technological advancement. The earliest mill on this site was built between 1712 and 1720, probably by Simon Van Ness. In 1757 it was a grist mill operated by Nathaniel Ford of Morristown. During the War For Independence flour from this mill helped feed the Continental troops who were camped at Pompton from 1777 through 1783. Evidence indicates the mill was operated by the Warmsley's who also ran the famous nearby tavern during the war. By 1806 the mill had become the property of Garret DeBow, a large property owner in the area. DeBow sold the mill to Peter Jackson who also operated a store here. In 1844 the property was sold to James Pewtner & Apollos Terris. Joseph Slater, an English weaver, moved to Pompton in 1849. He purchased the mill in 1861 and converted it for the processing of beaver fur. Machinery was installed and driven by a 12 ft. diameter overshot wheel developing 60 horsepower. A new dam created "Slater's Pond" in the Pequannock River as a reliable supply of water for the

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

History of Morris County, Munsell, 1882, Page 279
 "North Jersey Highlander", North Jersey Highlands Historical Society
 Newfoundland, New Jersey, Fall 1967, Page 3
 "North Jersey Highlander", North Jersey Highlands Historical Society,
 Newfoundland, New Jersey, Summer 1971, Page 4
 50th Anniversary, Borough of Riverdale, Private, 1973, Road Return,
 Paterson-Hamburg Turnpike, 1806.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1.15

UTM OK
HL

UTM REFERENCES

A

1	8	5	5	8	4	9	10	4	5	3	8	6	2	0
ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

B

ZONE			EASTING				NORTHING							

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE	CODE	COUNTY	CODE

11 FORM PREPARED BY

NAME / TITLE

W. Mead Stapler, (Editor, North Jersey Highlander)

ORGANIZATION

North Jersey Highlands Historical Society

DATE

March 3, 1975

STREET & NUMBER

One Dey Lane

TELEPHONE

CITY OR TOWN

Riverdale

STATE

New Jersey 07457

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.

SIGNATURE

Daniel J. Bondi

DATE

8 May 1975

TITLE Commissioner, Dept. of Environmental Protection

DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY

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

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

DATE

6/18/75

ATTEST:

DATE

JUN 17 1975

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

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CONTINUATION SHEET

ITEM NUMBER

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8. SIGNIFICANCE

wheel. 6 men were employed at the peak of production. Much of the beaver fur felt produced went into the famous "Stetson" hats. The flood of 1903 destroyed the dam and thereby the business. The mill fell into disuse and was finally sold to a Mrs. Carpenter when the Slater's moved from town in the 1930's. The mill then became a luncheonette and gas station.