National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

See instructions in *How to Complete National Register Forms*Type all entries—complete applicable sections

received AUG | 5 1984 date entered SEP 2 9 1984

1. ITAII	ne		2	
historic			. Bogo i transportante de la Servicia. La composição	Cyrk.
and/or common	Wappingers Fall	ls <u>Multiple Resoui</u>	ce Area	
2. Loc		dist + 3		
street & numbe	r Various			not for publication
city, town Wa	ppingers Falls	vicinity of		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
state New Y	orkan, com	de 036 county	Dutchess	code 027
3. Clas	ssification			· 1.59
Category district building(s) structure site object X MRA	Ownership public private X both Public Acquisition NA in process NA being considered	Status X occupied unoccupied work in progress Accessible X yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture _X commercial educational entertainment _X government _X industrial military	museum X park X private residence X religious Scientific X transportation other:
4. Owr	ner of Prope	rty		
name _{Vari}		ual component for	1. 4. 1	
		vicinity of	state	
city, town		al Descriptio	n	
5. Loca	ation of Leg	ai Desclibili		
5. Loca	ation of Leg		<u></u>	
5. Loca	istry of deeds, etc. Dut	chess County Cler	<u></u>	
5. Loca	istry of deeds, etc. Dut	chess County Cler	<u></u>	
5. Loca courthouse, registreet & number city, town	istry of deeds, etc. Dut 22 Market Stre Poughkeepsie	chess County Cler	ks Office	New York
5. Loca courthouse, registreet & number city, town	istry of deeds, etc. Dut 22 Market Stre Poughkeepsie	chess County Cler	ks Office	New York
5. Loca courthouse, registreet & number city, town 6. Rep	istry of deeds, etc. Dut 22 Market Stre Poughkeepsie	chess County Cler et in Existing S	ks Office	
5. Loca courthouse, registreet & number city, town 6. Replant	lstry of deeds, etc. Dut 22 Market Stre Poughkeepsie resentation	chess County Cler et in Existing S	state Surveys erty been determined elignment.	
5. Loca courthouse, registreet & number city, town 6. Replant	22 Market Stre Poughkeepsie resentation rk Statewide Inv	chess County Cler et in Existing S	state Surveys Terty been determined elignonic elignoni	gible?yes _X_ notesloca

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Wappingers

Continuation sheet Falls, Dutchess Co., NY

Item number

6

For NPS use only received date entered

Page 2

The Mesier Homestead, in Mesier Park, nominated as part of the Wappingers Falls Historic District, is included in the Historic Architecture and Building Survey (# NY-372).

7. Description

excellentX_ deterioratedX_ unalteredX original siteX goodX ruins x_ altered moved dateNA	_X good	_X_ ruins	Check one X unaltered X altered	• .		
--	---------	-----------	---------------------------------	-----	--	--

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

The historic resources of the Village of Wappingers Falls were identified by means of a comprehensive survey of structures compiled in 1879 by the Visual Environment Committee of the Wappingers Falls Chamber of Commerce. The survey and literature search was completed in consultation with New York State Historic Preservation Office staff and with the assistance of a professional architectural historian from Historic Architecture and Decorative Arts Consultants of Hurley, New York. The Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area is defined by the political boundary of the incorporated village. All properties included in the nomination were recorded on New York State building/structure inventory forms and systematically evaluated against the National Register criteria for their architectural and/or historical significance.

One large historic district and three individual properties located apart from the district were found to meet the National Register criteria, for a total of 135 contributing structures. The Wappingers Falls Historic District encompasses approximately ninety acres and contains 130 contributing and 12 non-contributing structures. Diverse in nature, the district incorporates an industrial complex, related workers' housing, historic portions of parks and a middle-class residential neighborhood with resources spanning from the early eighteenth century to the early twentieth century.

Two of the three individual properties are related directly to the industrial history of the village. The Mulhern House, 14-16 Market Street, is a rare intact surviving example of a double workers' residence from Wappingers Falls' early industrial period during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. The property contains the house and a contributing shed. Built during the following period, when the industry in the gorge was consolidated under the ownership of the Duchess Company, the Duchess Company Superintendent's Residence (c. 1846), 120 Market Street, is a distinctive example of industrial worker housing in the Picturesque taste. It's scale, design and location is symbolic of the role and position of the superintendent in the village industrial society. The property contains the house and no outbuildings. The third individual component, the Bain Commercial Building, 59-61 West Main Street, is nominated as a distinctive example of a Second Empire style freestanding commercial building in the village context. The property contains the structure and a contributing shed.

Sites where primary significance may be archee logical have not been evaluated. The industrial site within the district boundaries contains ruins of buildings and remains and is therefore archeologically sensitive. There have been no previous National Register listings

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area,
Wappingers Falls, Dutchess Co.,
Continuation sheet _____New York | Item no

Item number

received

dete entered

Page 2

within the village boundaries.

The village of Wappingers Falls is located on the Wappingers Creek approximately 1.5 miles east of its confluence with the Hudson River in Dutchess County, New York. The village is situated where the creek makes a dramatic plunge over a series of falls, totaling 75 feet in height, into a gorge which funnels its water into the Hudson River trough. The power generated by the falls gave the village its industrial start in the early 1700's. After two centuries of development, Wappingers Falls survives as one of the most extensive historic factory villages extant in New York State. There have been few alterations to the physical plan and appearance of the village. Because the population of Wappingers Falls has remained relatively prosperous, the community has not been affected by the wholesale demolition and alteration which has occurred with the urban renewal of neighboring Hudson River cities such as Poughkeepsie, Beacon and Modern highway construction has also bypassed the village to the east, thereby contributing to the preservation of anhistoric village setting. While numerous structures have been altered by the addition of wings, sidings and storefronts, the scale, characteristics and associations in the village convey an historic setting and ameliorate the effect of superficial changes.

The plan of the village follows the steep topography of the falls Above the falls (north) and east of the creek, and its depression. streets are patterned in a regular manner on a broad, rolling plain which characterizes the surrounding region. The two major features of the village plan are the Wappingers Creek and the old Albany Post Road (NYS Route 9D), which winds through the village as South Avenue and Main Street and on which is focused the significant commercial, civic and residential architecture in the community. As South Avenue, the road follows the ridge of the plateau, joining East Main Street to decline and cross the creek at a mid-point of the falls, and, thence, turning and inclining at West Main Street to regain its original elevation. Following the creek from its intersection with Main Street, the terraindrops further to the base of the falls where industrial development has been concentrated. Another major transportation artery, Market Street, parallels the course of the creek into the gorge through the industrial zone eventually to the Hudson River.

General Location and Characteristics of Resources

The siting type, and character of architecture in the village reflects the economic and social forces which contributed to the his-

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource

Wappingers Falls, Dutchess Co. item number

New York

data entered

Page 3

torical development of the community. While the creek determined the placement of industrial structures, the graduated topography also provided for echelons of status within the community. With the factory located at the base of the falls, the ornate and stylish residences of mill owners and businessmen situated on the high ground, and the commercial district and workers' housing sandwiched in between on the hillside east of the creek, the village reflects the economic and social stratification typical of a 19th-century industrial village.

The variety of building types in the village, represented primarily in the historic district, span from the 1740's to the 1930's yet the date from the last half of the nineteenth predominent building types century when industrial activity was at its peak. The factory buildings tended to be built of brick in patterns suitable for the various processes associated with textile manufacture. The commercial district is split by the falls and the gorge which carries a large iron penstock nine feet in diameter conducting water from the impounded Wappingers Lake above Main Street though the gorge to the complex at the falls The commercial street contains two blocks of tall, attached brick commercial structures built in the post Civil-War period in an Italianate taste, with bracketed cornices and decorative wondow trim typical of small-scale mercantile architecture in the region in the period. structures survive essentially intact in Wappingers Falls and are included in the historic district. The historic residential areas are generally characterized by small, frame, detached houses. housing in the gorge was grouped, two residences to a unit, while the balance of housing on the hill was built as single family residences. Important middle-class housing survives from the full range of the period of significance beginning with the settlement period Brewer-Mesier House (c. 1841) in Mesier Park, through Federal and Greek Revival period residences (12, 24 South Avenue), Gothic Revival (14, 55, 59 South Avenue) Second Empire (22, 31, 39 South Avenue) Queen Anne (43 South Avenue) and Colonial Revival (18 South Avenue). The majority of residences date from the post-Civil War period however. Included in this housing group are small, modest typical housing popular in cities and villages as they expanded at the turn of the twentieth century. In the historic district these house types are found on South Avenue (Nos. 45-53) and facing Mesier Park.

Chronological Description of Resources

The only physical remains of the eighteenth century history of Wappingers Falls is embodied in the Brewer-Mesier House (known locally

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Wappingers Falls, Dutchess Co. Item number Continuation sheet New York For NPS use only

received

date entered

Page .

as the Mesier Homestead) which is an component of the historic district located in Mesier Park. Adolphus Brewer erected the first mill in the falls c. 1738 to produce flour and his house survives within the vernacular frame residence expanded and elaborated by Peter Mesier and his descendants. The Mesiers erected another grist mill upon acquiring Brewer's property just prior to the Revolutionary War. Brewer's property comprised much of what was to become the village of Wappingers Falls.

Following the Revolution, the falls became a prime site for industrial development, with small factories erected in the gorge for the manufacture and printing of cotton textiles (see figure 1). By 1850, the local textile industry was consolidated under single corporate ownership and Wappingers Falls became a factory town. Subsequent Expansion was concentrated at the base of the falls and former mills in the gorge were abandoned and no longer exist. A small number of workers houses survive which were associated with these early factories. One particularly intact two-story frame double residence constructed c. 1815 is included in the nomination individually as the best representative example of residential mill architecture from this period Mulhers House, 14-16 Market Street). Other examples in the vicinity have been compromised by alteration

For nearly a century after 1850, the Duchess Company, or the "Printworks," was the major employer and economic base of the community. Late nineteenth century illustrations of the complex (see figures 2 and 3) show the property to have contained a concentration of long, low brick buildings. A devastating fire had consumed the earliest buildings in the 1870's and all of the surviving buildings date from a rebuilding period in the 1870's and 1880's. In the early twentieth century, a complex of buildings on the west side of the creek was replaced by the present, large brick factory. The entire complex is included in the historic district, including the visible remains of original buildings.

The Dutchess Company erected hundreds of frame housing units on the hillside east of the factories, the majority of which survive as one of the largest concentrations of workers' housing in the region. These two-story frame double houses date predominantly from the last half of the 19th century and are generally undistinguished due to physical alterations. However, a selection of residences is included in the historic district on Market Street, Dutchess Avenue and Dutchess Terrace to illustrate the range of form and design over the period. Houses on Market Street and Dutchess Avenue (north side) tend to be earlier (1850-1860) and in a traditional Classical form and symmetry which can be related to earlier examples such as the individually nominated Mulhern House (14-16 Market Street). A Gothic Revival design was utilized for later houses (1865-75) on Dutchess Avenue (south side), but these were unique examples and possible erected as a show piece close to the factory. Contemporary and later houses, such as those on Dutchess Terrace (1870-1880), demonstrate the popularity of the traditional form although features like chimney and entrance placement and decoration were subject to subtle design modification.

NPS Form 10-900-a

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Wappingers Falls, Dutchess Co., Item number 7 For NPS use only

received

data entered

Page !

Managerial residences, generally larger and more pretentious single-family residences were interspersed in the working-class neighborhood. Most of these are two-story frame houses in restrained Greek Revival, Gothic Revival or Second Empire styles, built between 1850 and 1880 which are in direct contrast to the lower status homes which surround them. A number of this type are part of the historic district. (Located at: 49, 77, 79, 81 Market Street.) A higher level superintendent's house (120 Market Street) a distinctive example of a brick residence in the local picturesque vernacular, is included individually as it is conspicuously sited along the creek below the factory and remote from the concentration of the workers' community. While the integrity of the balance of the worker's in the village is too compromised to meet the National Register criteria, their concentration, siting and regular appearance provide important evidence of the physical make-up of the industrial society which existed in Wappingers Fslls.

On the ridge east of the gorge, the homes of the industrialists were sited overlooking their domain. Once elaborate residences, some dating from the early nineteenth century, each of the houses has been altered and its grounds subdivided to the extent that none of them is representative of its type and period of construction. This aspect of the village's history could not be represented in the nomination. While they are the only buildings of their type in the village, the Duchess Company Superintendent's House, individually nominated, shares distinctive qualities of scale, design and decoration.

Directly east of these properties, South Avenue survives with an exceptionally intact, eclectic collection of nineteenth-century architectural specimens. The earliest thoroughfare in the village, its architecture ranges from the Federal period to Queen Anne period styles and represents the significant middle-class development in the community. South Avenue is included in the historic district although later and more modest buildings, which comprise the balance of the general neighborhood to the east, have been excluded.

The junction of the residential South Avenue and the commercial East Main Street is characterized by open space which served as an effective buffer between the home and business interests of the village's more successful citizens. Parks were created when the Mesier Homestead was purchased by the village in the 1890's and its northerly lands subdivided. The upland community once anchored by the homestead and the Zion Episcopal Church was further bolstered in the last two decades of the century by the addition of a library, a Methodist church, a fraternal lodge and neat house lining the parks. The Zion church greatly expanded physically in the period and the homestead was converted to public use.

For NPS use only

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

d**ate** entered

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Wappingers Falls,
Continuation sheet Dutchess Co., New York Item number 7 Page 6

Directly below the park area, on East Main Street, a solid block of post Civil War commercial architecture distinguishes the business district of the village. These attached, three-story brick structures with intact facade ornamentation are gradually stepped to the declining topography. The block between these buildings and the creek is less densely developed and with later architecture, as all but one of the small industrial buildings which distinguished the area late in the century have been lost to fire or replacement. On the west side of the creek, Main Street turns abruptly north leaving an intact, attached facade of buildings facing the roadway. This visual characteristic provides an almost picturesque quality to the commercial area streetscape.

Until the incorporation of the village in 1871, the area west of the creek was a distinct entity known as Channingville. The area does not contain housing comparable to the age or significance of the industrial and residential sections of the historic district. Alteration is common and the Channingville community is not included in the district. An intact, freestanding, two-story brick Second Empire style store building at the summit of West Main Street is included individually as a distinctive example of its type and period of architecture in the village as well as a representative example of the development of this satellize community.

8. Significance

Period prehistoric 1400-1499 1500-1599 1600-1699 _X 1700-1799 _X 1800-1899 _X 1900-	Areas of Significance—C archeology-prehistoric agricultureX architecture art commerce communications		law literature military music	re religion science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater transportation other (specify)
Specific dates	c. 1730-1934	Builder/Architect V	arious	

Statement of Significance (in one paragraph)

The Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area is defined by the municipal limit: of the village of Wappingers Falls and contains an extensive historic district and three individual properties which reflect the development of a significant Hudson Valley industrial community over more than two centuries from 1730 to 1940. With a seventy-five-foot drop of water, Wappingers Falls was a highly desirable mill site early in the history The enormity of the hydraulic power attracted heavy of the region. industrial development at the beginning of the nineteenth century, and the village was one of the first sites established for cotton textile manufacture in the Hudson Valley. The village retains significant, wellpreserved examples of industrial and commercial buildings, working-class houses, stylish residences, and public structures and parks directly linked to the village's industrial economy. Wappingers Falls's architectural heritage includes distinctive regional examples of colonial, Neoclassical and picturesque styles as well as models of Shingle style, Colonial Revival and Art Deco design. The nominated properties in the multiple resource area preserve the essence of an historic Hudson Valley manufacturing village to a degree rarely encountered in the region.

The great hydropower resources of the Wappingers Creek and the village's proximity to Hudson River transportation had attracted industry to Wappingers Falls by 1738. By that time, Adolphus Brewer was operating a grist mill on the site to capitalize on the demand for flour production from the growing agricultural population in Dutchess County. The residence Brewer built west of the creek was acquired with the balance of his land and commercial holdings in 1776 by Peter Mesier, a New York City merchant, (the "Mesier Homestead" in Mesier Park in the historic district contains, as its earliest section, portions of Brewer's original house). Mesier family continued to operate a flour mill and opened a shipyard. They amassed over seven hundred acres of land encompassing the creek, the falls, and Hudson River property: virtually all the area that would become the village of Wappingers Falls. While not actively engaged in the heavy manufacturing pursuits that would later characterize the community through their management of the property, the Mesier family played a determining role in the industrial development of the creek and in the physical planning and organization of the village.

Wappingers Falls was the location of one of the earliest cotton textile manufacturing enterprises in the state. In 1819, John Gnans and Benjamin DeLavergne purchased property on the creek, and Gnans erected a cotton mill on the west side, below the streetwhich now bears his name. Trade embargos and anti-British sentiment following the Revolutionary War and culminating in the War of 1812 engendered a home-manufacture sentiment and led to a proliferation of small cotton manufactories in the northeastern

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Dutchess Co., NY
Continuation sheet Item number 8

For NPS use only received date entered

Page 2

United States during the first quarter of the nineteenth century. In the Hudson Valley, counties on the east side of the river, particularly Dutchess, Columbia, and Rensselaer, were in the forefront of this industrial movement.

One of the old flour mills on the Wappingers Falls was converted into a textile printworks in 1829 by John Ingham, recently arrived from Manchester, England. He was one of many industrial mechanics lured to America to build and equip textile factories. Thomas Garner, an Englishman, and other associates acquired Ingham's printworks in 1848. Known as the Duchess Company, Garner's firm had already gained ownership of Gnans's cotton factory and Benjamin Clapp's Franklindale cotton mill, which had been erected on a former Mesier grist mill site. acquisition of the printworks, the Wappingers Falls textile industry came under single corporate ownership and remained that way for the next At this point Wappingers Falls could be characterized as a factory The Brewer-Mesier House, known locally as the Mesier Homestead, is the only eighteenth-century structure existing in the village. of the original mill structures survives although foundations of some remain in and below the gorge within the historic district.

The works originally located in one building had, by 1850, expanded to a complex which covered twelve acres. Production at the site reached its zenith in the years following the Civil War. After a fire in 1870 completely destroyed the complex, buildings were rebuilt. Surviving structures in the historic district are from this post-1870 period, including those from an expansion period in the early twentieth century. In 1882, 80 million yards of cloth were printed by the Duchess Company. Population of the village more than doubled between 1860 and 1880, growing from 1819 residents to 4,210. Between 900 and 1,200 of these residents were employed by the Duchess Company, many of them residing in the 460 tenement houses owned by the company.

Most of these houses remain south and east of the factory. These modest frame double dwellings have been, as a group, extensively altered in being adapted to non-factory residences, but a cross-section of house periods and types has been included in the historic district to reflect variations in design of the double house form in the nineteenth century. The houses demonstrate both the stylistic trends of factory housing as company showpieces and the dependency of the worker on the industry. One of the earliest intact workers' houses, included as an individual component in the multiple resource area, is the Mulhern House (14-16 Market Street). Dating from the first quarter of the nineteenth century, it embodies the distinctive characteristics of a Federal style structure and is historically associated with the earliest period of industrial development.

National Register of Historic Places Inventory--Nomination Form Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Dutchess Co., NY

For NPS use only received date entered

Continuation sheet

Item number

Page

3

Additional industries, both supporting the operation of the printworks and consuming its products, appeared in the village once steam power allowed development remote from the creek. Clayton Sweet and James Orr began a coverall manufacturing company on Market Street. The success of their venture eventually necessitated their removal to larger quarters, but the nationally known Sweet-Orr work clothes were originally made in Wappingers Falls. Their factory on Mill Street is included in the historic district.

As late as 1832, Wappingers Falls contained only one store, operated by Benjamin Clapp, owner of the Franklindale cotton mill. Beers Atlas for Dutchess County illustrates sparce and scattered commercial development on Main Street which was, then, more characterized by industrial buildings than stores. However, the local industrial economy was booming and the population of the village expanding. By the next decade, both sides of Main Street between Market Street and the Episcopal church had been built up with brick commercial buildings, nearly identical, in neat attached rows. The Mesier family had owned the property in 1867 and probably played a role in the eventual development. The three-story attached structures with bracketed cornices and decorative window trim (9 through 18 East Main Street) contributed an organized, urban quality to the village and were complemented by notable public buildings and up-to-date architectural specimens such as Goring Hall (5-7 East Main), its neighbor at 3 East Main Street with a cast-iron facade, the Wappingers Falls Savings Bank building on Mill Street (now the town hall), and the Grennell Library (26 East Main Street).

Commercial expansion occurred on the opposite side of the creek as well in the 1870s. While hotels and stores can be identified on the west side of West Main Street (then known as Channingville) on the Beer's Atlas (1867), the erection of structures on the creek or east side followed in the last quarter of the nineteenth century after the 1871 consolidation of the two communities into one village. The canyon-like quality of the streetscape in its descent into the gorge and the abrupt turn of the street at the bridge crossing evokes the appearance of a classic industrial village of the period. The distinctive appearance of the continuous wall of buildings at the crossing of the creek is enhanced by the opera house erected in the 1870s (5-7 West Main Street) and the old Farmers and Mechanics Hotel of the 1860's (11-13 West Main Street). Bain Commercial Building (59-61 West Main Street) is separated from the historic district by heavily altered nineteenth-century buildings and twentieth-century intrusions. It is nominated individually as a distinctive singular example of commercial architecture in the 1870-1880 period.

Connecting the middle-class neighborhoods on the hill with the industrial site and working-class neighborhoods in the gorge, Main Street is an important link in the social network of the factory town and is a part

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Fe	r NP	S use	only		
re	celvi	ed			
da	te ei	ntere	d		

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Dutchess Co., NY

Continuation sheet Item number 8 Page 4

of the historic district. The limited number of storefronts reflects the limited disposable income of the worker and the disproportionate influence of the small managerial class. The number of civic structures in the business district distinguish Main Street as a social common ground serving the philanthropic interests of some and the pretensions of others.

The venerable, stone Zion Episcopal Church (1834) is located at the eastern end of the commercial district and marks the transition from the commercial area to higher class residential neighborhoods. Traditionally the church of the managerial class, its location is an appropriately dignified symbol for the beginning of Wappingers Falls's prime residential street, South Avenue. Towards the end of the nineteenth century, the distinctive Shingle style Grinnell Library was built opposite the church on Main Street, providing another institutional anchor to the hilltop part of the village.

The hilltop is dominated by parkland surrounding the Brewer-Mesier House. This picturesque relic of Aldolphus Brewer's era, expanded and aggrandized by generations of the Mesier family, is the village's only visible link with the eighteenth century. The Mesier's maintained the property as a country seat as they developed and sold their holdings in the village. They finally divested themselves of village property when they sold the house and grounds to the municipality in 1892. The village government retained the house for offices and the immediate grounds for a park. The balance of the property was subdivided into house lots, creating Park Street and North Mesier Street. frame houses on these streets are illustrative of the changing style and patterns of life in the industrial village. The Mesier homestead serves as an important monument in the village and has been carefully and diligently preserved as such. Its rural demeanor and natural setting (artificially provided by dozens of specimen trees) has provided a quiet counterpoint to the industrial and commercial activity below it. The house and park are included in the historic district with the late nineteenth century residences which now enclose them.

Important additions were made to the Zion Episcopal Church complex in the 1880s. The church structure was enlarged by the addition of a parish house and a rectory was added to the property. Both built in a Shingle style, they were enhanced by addition of the Grinnell Library opposite the church on Main Street in 1887 in a similar taste. In 1895, the sanctuary of the Zion Church was enlarged and dramatically renovated.

South Avenue was the leg of the transportation artery which exited the south side of the village. Its upland site and road orientation gave it a certain prominence which was developed with a broad avenue-like quality early in its history. Houses are set back from the highway behind lawns providing a spacious streetscape. Mature trees once dignified

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

	r NPS				
•		usut	,,,,,		
rec	eivec	•			
da	le ent	ered			

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Dutchess Co., NY Continuation sheet

Item number 8 Page

5

the setting but have been removed recently by a highway improvement project and replaced by saplings. At mid-century, it was distinguished by an eclectic array of modestly scaled, yet distinctively designed, residences of merchant and professional classes which are included in the historic district. The mill owners' houses were slightly west of South Avenue, closer to the ridge line overlooking the mill complex and beyond. These large houses no longer survive as distinctive buildings, having been converted to multiple dwellings and/or irreversibly altered, and have been excluded from the district. South Avenue houses exemplify the Greek Revival, Gothic Revival, Italianate, Second Empire and Queen Their linear development along the avenue creates a Anne styles. distinctive cross section of residential architectural taste over time. Two churches distinguish the street: a Baptist meetinghouse erected in 1847 by local industrialist Benjamin Clapp and, at the southern limit of the district, a Presbyterian church built in 1872. The physical and temporal relation of the two edifices is another indication of the growth, evolution and increasing prosperity of the village over the intervening twenty-five years.

The Duchess Company continued to be the pivotal factor in the Wappingers Falls economy and society into the twentieth century. In 1909, the proprietorship of the firm changed hands and ceased its printing operation, restricting its activity to bleaching and dying. The Duchess Bleachery, as the mill became known, erected new buildings on the west side of the creek to accommodate new technology. The present iron penstock was constructed at this time to direct water to the powerhouse.

No major commercial construction occurred in the village in the last two decades of nineteenth century or the first decade of the twentieth. Small-scale residential development activity occurred in the subdivided lots of the Mesier property in the 1890's and early 1900's, and additional houses were in-filled on South Avenue; both areas are in the historic district and these later buildings contribute to its significance. The Grinnell Library, erected in 1887, was the major public building until 1915 when the bank structure was erected on the corner of Main and Mill Street in 1915 on the site of an old hotel built by the Mesiers. contributing elements of the district.

Growth at the Duchess Bleachery had subsided by the advent of the twentieth century and, like most nineteenth-century industries, it experienced a dramatic decline during the Depression years. national industries such as the National Biscuit Company, General Electric, and Ford Motor Company sought the opportunity to acquire the bleachery for its physical plant and labor force. The management discouraged all inquiries and, in a sense, sealed the village within the nineteenth century. Three major buildings were erected in the declining period: the Wappingers Falls Post Office on Mesier Park, a Depression era building of an outstanding vernacular Colonial Revival

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Dutchess Co.,
Continuation sheet Item number 8

Far NPS use only received date entered

Page 6

design; the Art Deco movie theater on West Main Street, an unusual architectural type for the area; and a brick structure on East Main Street at the creek erected by the local electrical utility, now non-contributing.

The bleachery closed in 1955 ending over one hundred years of economic and social domination over the community. However, the pattern and physical manifestation of the nineteenth-century industrial village (and its twentieth century additions) survive as distinctive reminders of life in a factory town.

The development of suburban employment in the area greatly increased following the second world war as International Business Machines established its manufacturing headquarters a few miles north of Wappingers Falls. A new generation of a large, paternalistic industry supplemented the old, spreading its influence over the entire region. Wappingers Falls, bypassed by highways and development, has remained essentially unaffected and preserved.

9. Major Bibliographical References

See Continuation Sheet

10. Geographical Data
Acreage of nominated property 92-
Quadrangle name Wappingers Falls Quadrangle scale 1:24,000
UTM References See continuation Sheet
A B' Zone Easting Northing Zone Easting Northing
GLILLIAN, LILIAN, FIRE STATE OF THE STATE OF
Verbal boundary description and justification
The intact historic streets in the village district and the intact village lots of individual properties as defined on attached copy of loc tax map.
List all states and counties for properties overlapping state or county boundaries
state N.A. code county N.A. code
state N.A. code county N.A. code
11. Form Prepared By
ii. Form Prepared by
name/title Neil Larson
organization N.Y.S. Division for Historic date August 1984 Preservation
street & number Agency Bldg. #1 Empire State telephone (518) 474-0479
Plaza city or town Albany state New York 12238
12. State Historic Preservation Officer Certification
The evaluated significance of this property within the state is:
national stateX 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 Alia A Hola
title Deputy Commissioner for Historic Preservation date 8/3/84
For NPS use only
I hereby certify that this property is included in the National Register
See Continuation their for Josesley
Keeper of the National Register
Attest: date
Chief of Registration

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Wappingers Continuation sheet Falls, Dutchess Co., NY

Item number

Far NPS use anly received date entered

Page 1

Bibliography

- Beers, F.W. Atlas of New York and Vicinity. New York: F.W. Beers, A.D. Ellis and G.G. Soule, 1867.
- Gray, O.W. and Son, and F.A. Davis. New York Illustrated Atlas of Dutchess County, New York. Reading, Pa.: H.L. Kochersperger, 1876.
- Smith, James H. History of Dutchess County 1683-1882. Syracuse: D. Mason and Co., 1882.
- Wappingers Falls, Past and Present, 1871 to 1971. Wappingers Falls, N.Y.: Village of Wappingers Falls, 1971.

NPS Form 10-900-a

United States Department of the Interior National Park Service

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form

For NPS use only received date entered

Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Area, Wappingers

Continuation sheet Falls, Dutchess Co., NY

Item number

11

Page

The Wappingers Falls Multiple Resource Nomination was completed with the assistance of the following groups and individuals:

Sponsor: Visual Environment Committee

Wappingers Falls Chamber of Commerce in particular: Norman Nussbickle Rita Nussbickle Elaine Bass

Consultant to the sponsor for survey:

Townley McElhiney

Historic Architecture and Decorative Arts Consultants

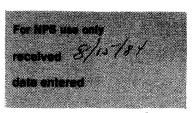
Hurley, New York

Building List: Nancy Todd

Historic Preservation Consultant

38 Saratoga Drive Scotia, NY 12302

National Register of Historic Places Inventory—Nomination Form



Continuation sheet

Item number

Page (of /

Multiple Resource Area Thematic Group dnr-11

Sta	ate <u>Dutchess Co., NEW</u>	YORK	Con	u9/24/29
No	mination/Type of Review		,	Date/Signatúre
1.	Wappingers Falls Historic District	Substantive Review		Tome from Dongel 9/14/89
2.	Pain Commonatel Putlitus		Attest	Barrella Dorch al
2.	Bain Commercial Building	Substantive Review	U	10 nac / 1 na 00 agr 9/29/8
3.	Duchosa Company Curanista		Attest	Helm Bear They
.,	Duchess Company Superinte House	ndent's	Attest	Check Jagach 1
4.	Mulhern House	Marian San San San San San San San San San S	#Keeper	Delous Byen 9/29/8
			Attest	
5.			Keeper	
			Attest	
3.			Keeper	
			Attest	
7.			Keeper	
		•	Attest	
8.			Keeper	
			Attest	
9.			Keeper	
			Attest	
10.			Keeper	
	·		Attest	