

**United States Department of the Interior
Heritage Conservation and Recreation Service**

**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 Millville Historic and Archaeological District

and/or common Millville

2. Location

street & number [redacted] publication

city, town [redacted] vicinity of congressional district

state New Jersey code 034 county Sussex code 037

3. Classification

Category	Ownership	Status	Present Use
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> occupied	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture
<input type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> unoccupied	<input type="checkbox"/> commercial
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> both	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> work in progress	<input type="checkbox"/> educational
<input type="checkbox"/> site	Public Acquisition	Accessible	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment
<input type="checkbox"/> object	<input type="checkbox"/> in process	<input type="checkbox"/> yes: restricted	<input type="checkbox"/> government
	<input type="checkbox"/> being considered	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> yes: unrestricted	<input type="checkbox"/> industrial
		<input type="checkbox"/> no	<input type="checkbox"/> military
			<input type="checkbox"/> museum
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> park
			<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private residence
			<input type="checkbox"/> religious
			<input type="checkbox"/> scientific
			<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
			<input type="checkbox"/> other:

4. Owner of Property

name See attached.

street & number

city, town vicinity of state

5. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Hall of Records

street & number Park Avenue

city, town Newton state NJ 07860

6. Representation in Existing Surveys

title Classified Structures Field Inventory has this property been determined eligible? yes no

date April 1976 federal state county local

depository for survey records Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area Headquarters

city, town Bushkill state Pennsylvania

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 (some)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ruins (some)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> altered	<input type="checkbox"/> moved date _____
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> unexposed		

Describe the present and original (if known) physical appearance

DESCRIPTION

The Millville Historic and Archeological District is located

[REDACTED] The District presently consists of five standing structures and the sites of five additional buildings. The standing structures include the Shimer-Hornbeck house (see Map 5-K) and associated carriage house (3-C), modern garage (6-H) incorporating the walls of a 19th century barn, the DeReemer house (9-K), and associated outbuilding (10-C). Both the privately owned Shimer-Hornbeck house and the carriage house are presently under restoration. The DeReemer property is owned by the National Park Service. Foundations for other structures, discussed below, are found among the otherwise wooded site. Settlement and milling activity began in this area around 1750. Milling continued into the closing decades of the 19th century. Oral history and documentary research have located three mill sites within the district. Remnants of two water-powered mills lie [REDACTED]. The first (7-K) consists of both a concrete foundation and dry-laid stone foundations for a relatively large grist and saw milling operation. The second mill (11-K) [REDACTED] consists of the remains of a smaller structure, exhibiting a dry-laid foundation. Remains of a mill dam (12-K) [REDACTED].

Tail races for both these sites are evident [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Also associated with these two mill sites is the site of what was a residence in 1961, but appears through its shape and appearance to have been associated with the milling industry (8-K). Oral history interviews have indicated the possible location of a third mill site [REDACTED].

Two other foundations lie within the district, each lying to [REDACTED]. The first (2-K) is a small stone foundation [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] (1-K), and has been identified as a blacksmith shop.

The remainder of the district is characterized [REDACTED].

[REDACTED] Covering consists of both deciduous and evergreen trees, with dense underbrush. Landscaping is clear around the standing structures.

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 checked="" 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/
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> music	<input type="checkbox"/> humanitarian
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> exploration/settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	<input type="checkbox"/> theater
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation
		<input type="checkbox"/> invention		<input type="checkbox"/> other (specify)

Specific dates

Builder/Architect

Statement of Significance (In one paragraph)

SIGNIFICANCE

The settlement at Millville represents the greatest concentration of water powered industrial activity over a period of 130 years [redacted]. The extant archeological remains of two water powered grist and saw mills and the possible location of a third are located within the district boundaries. Associated with these early industrial sites are two residences, a carriage house and the sites of a blacksmith shop, a school and an unidentified stone foundation. Settlement and milling activity began around 1750. The mills continued operations until the 1890's. The district includes the only mill sites within the township that exhibit features such as foundation walls and corners, tail races and dam remains.

Millsite 11-K came into the ownership of the Westbrook family late in the 18th century. By 1850, Joseph Westbrook was processing grain with 5 run of stone for a product valued at \$18,500. From the Westbrooks, ownership passed into the Shimer family for twenty years, when by 1880, the mill had 2 run of stone and ran only half-time. Jacob Swartwout ran the mill in the 1800's with three run of stone. The residence and barn (9-K&10-C) [redacted] have been linked with the mill owners through documentary sources.

The second mill (7-K) was originally begun by Abram Shimer around 1750. His son Isaac sold it to Benjamin Hornbeck in 1860. This mill was both a saw and grist mill in its earliest years. By the mid-19th century, its function was exclusively grinding grain. The Hornbeck's retained ownership into the late 19th century and at one time ran a store in part of their house. Associated with this mill and its owners are the Shimer-Hornbeck house (5-K), carriage house (3-C) and garage (6-H). The original section of this dwelling was a 1 1/2 story, 3 bay frame structure. The larger wing was added in the mid-19th century. The carriage house was re-built ca. 1950 on a 19th century foundation. The modern concrete and stone garage incorporates the foundation walls of a 19th century barn.

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DESCRIPTION

Historically, 



Boundaries were chosen to accommodate all features and structures within the district that were associated with human activity during the 18th and 19th century. The Montague Grange directly  and is associated with 20th century agricultural activity.

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DESCRIPTION

Millville Historic and Archeological District

Descriptive Information Keyed to District Map

- 1-K Foundation of Blacksmith shop - rubble stone construction, side and rear walls of foundation evident. Approximate size of feature 5 feet by 20 feet.
- 2-K Side and rear walls (information indicates this was a stable associated with the Blacksmith Shop) of foundation, rubble stone, uncoursed, approximate size of feature 15 feet by 15 feet.
- 3-C Carriage House - 2-story, frame building with a rough fieldstone foundation. Wood siding; asphalt shingle roof; 6/6 windows (modern). While standing upon a fieldstone foundation of at least 19th century origin, the carriage house gives evidence of having been modified in mid-20th century into a residence.
- 4-C Possible early millsite, approximately 3 feet of partially buried rubble stone masonry wall is evident
[REDACTED]
- 5-K The Shimer-Hornbeck House is a large frame building, consisting of two sections, on a split-face fieldstone foundation. The smaller wing, built ca. late 18th century (but possibly before 1777), is 1½ stories high. It has wood siding and a wood shingle roof. A narrow porch, supported by four columns, equally spaced, runs across the width of the wing. Above the porch roof, two small dormers extend through the main roof line. A slender concrete block chimney is attached to the open gable facade on the north end of the house. The larger wing, built mid-19th century, is 2 stories high, with wood siding and a wood shingle roof.

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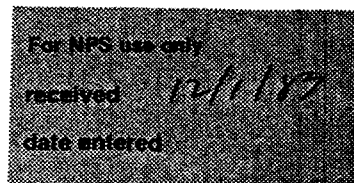
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The wing is four bays wide, with a large columned porch framing the central entrance door, and dividing the groups of paired bays. There is a large dormer to the rear. Two large brick chimneys are set in the wing, slightly indented from the gable ends. At the south end of the house, the chimney back protrudes through the wood siding at the first floor level.

In general, the character of the detailing on the front facade is chaotic. Its reveals a continuous history of renovations. It is difficult to determine how much of that trim is original and how much added.

6-H West wall of present modern garage extends past end of garage approximately 14 feet in a southerly direction then turns to the west for another 6 feet. Construction is rubble stone, uncoursed.

7-K The Millville Ruin is the remains of an early (possibly ca. 1723) gristmill [redacted]. The Mill has not been in operation since the late 19th century, and the remains are deteriorated. At this time, it is only possible to speculate about the specific relation and function of the standing parts of the structure to each other, and to the parts which have totally collapsed.

The remains include a large L-shaped concrete wall set into the hillside, and parts of at least four stone interior walls. Also remaining is a concrete stairway down to the mill race, and concrete parts of the race itself, which appears to be about six feet deep. The interior of the structure is partially filled with earth, brush, leaves and debris. The woods have grown in around, and in some cases, inside of, the remains of the mill.

[redacted] millsite
and, needless to say, constitute serious

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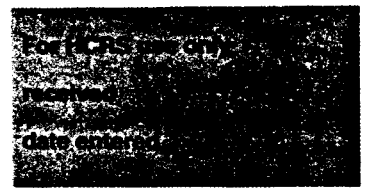
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intrusions upon the integrity of the site. Not only are they visually distracting from the vantage point of the ruins themselves, but they carry traffic high above it, which, combined with the heavy cover of woods around the site, tends to disguise its very presence. The only mitigating feature which can be pointed out about this arrangement is that it clearly reduced the possible temptation of intruders to disturb the site.

- 8-K Demolished sometime after 1961, this building was of frame construction, approximately 20 feet by 30 feet, central brick chimney, possible extension on western facade. No above-ground features evident. May have been associated with mills previous to use as a residence.
- 9-K Built ca. 1850. Five-bay, center hall, 2½ stories, frame farmhouse with rubble-stone foundation, stuccoed over. Recessed doorway with Greek Revival style panels flanking entranceway. Rear shed addition, 19th century, early 20th century garage attached to addition. Owned by National Park Service, presently windows and doorways boarded.
- 10-C Small barn of post and beam construction, weatherboard siding, two story, cement floor.
- 11-K Millsite, rubble stone walls on east end of site, corner of structure, one wall approximately 4 feet long, 3 feet high, corner wall 3 feet long and 3 feet high, not including rubble from collapsed walls. Evidence of tailrace from millsite approximately 50 feet long.
- 12-K Mill dam, approximately 18 feet long, running north-south into the stream, rubble stone construction. Good condition, air face well-exposed and in good condition.

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SIGNIFICANCE

Remnants and sites of other structures located within the district include a blacksmith shop (1-K), an unidentified foundation (2-K), a third possible millsite (4-C) and a barn-type structure associated with milling (8-k). The blacksmith shop was active into the early 20th century. The third millsite was identified through oral history interviews conducted with county employees who worked on the road reconstruction in 1955. More information on this site may be yielded through archeological investigation. Site 8-K was being used as a residence in 1961, but in shape and form, appears to have been associated with the milling industry. It has since been demolished. Documentary research indicates one of the earliest schools in the township was located in Millville and may be associated with the unidentified foundation. A later school is located adjacent to the blacksmith shop location on the 1860 historic map of Sussex County. Mill dam remains (12-K) are located opposite site 11-K.

In all, the district incorporates many features of an historic settlement area typical of a rural area. Industry, education and commerce were all located here. Of the three such settlement groupings within the township, only Millville retains the integrity and features that would allow an interpretation of both 18th and 19th century living. The only intrusion into the district is the modern county highway that is carried above the stream by a large metal culvert through which the stream passes. However, because the road passes so high above the archeological sites, it does provide some measure of protection. The availability of good above-ground features associated with the millsites and other foundations indicate a good potential for archeological information retrieval. And although Millville may be considered typical in that many rural milling centers became central places for rural economy, it is unique in the history of Montague in that it was the largest concentration of milling in the township. For these reasons, it is likely to provide a greater understanding not only of the history of Montague Township, but also of Sussex County as a rural, agriculturally based area dependent on small milling operations such as these.

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Herman, Ed. Personal Communication, 1983.

Honeyman, A. Van Doren Northwestern New Jersey, A History of Somerset, Morris, Hunterdon and Warren Counties. New York, Lewis Historical Publishing Co. 1927.

Low, George C., Director The Industrial Directory of New Jersey. Camden, New Jersey, S. Chew and Sons, Co., 1915.

Map of Sussex County, New Jersey. G. M. Koopkins, C.E., Philadelphia, Carlos Allen, pub. 1860.

Snell, James P., compiler History of Sussex and Warren Counties, New Jersey. Philadelphia, Everts and Peck, 1881.

Vermeule, Cornelius Report on Water Supply. Geological Survey of New Jersey, Trenton, New Jersey, 1894.

Webb, Edward A. The Historical Directory of Sussex County. 1872.

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9. Major Bibliographic References

Additions:

Tax Map of the Township of Montague, Sussex County, New Jersey. Augusta, New Jersey, Harold Pellow, engineer 1980.

State Atlas of New Jersey. New York, Beers, Comstock and Cline, 1872.

United States. Bureau of the Census. Manufactures of the United States. 1850, 1860, 1870, 1880.

United States Manuscript Censuses of Sussex County, New Jersey. 1850, 1860 1870, 1880.

Vermeule, Cornelius. Report on Water Supply. Trenton, New Jersey, Geological Survey of New Jersey, 1894.

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supplemental information

SIGNIFICANCE

8. Significance

An 1881 history of Sussex County describes Millville as the point in Montague Township which "... derives its only importance from its milling interests" (Snell 1881;368). The United States Census of Manufacture, 1850 to 1880, and the United States Census of Population from these same decades documents this importance, for at least the last half of the nineteenth century. Mills reportedly were located here in the eighteenth century as well (Snell 1881: 362, 368), but the census data provides documentation of the kind and amount of milling activity only for the 19th century. Wheat, rye, buckwheat and cornmeal were all processed at these mills at various times in their history. From at least 1850 through 1881, the Westbrook, Shimer and Hornbeck families controlled the milling interests in the district. Surprisingly, for the most part, they list their occupations as farmers, and employ one or two millers at their establishments. The 1850 manuscript census lists two millers and a millwright in the area; the 1870 census a millwright; and the 1880 census, a miller. This information is corroborated by the Census of Manufacture, which lists the number of employees at each mill during this period, and corresponds to the information found in the manuscript census data. Although the Westbrook mill had five run of stone in 1850, both mills had either two or three run from then until the 1890's. Vermeule, in his Report on Water Power in 1894, lists the Jacob Hornbeck grist mill in operation with a net horsepower of twelve (page 13, appendix). This documentation, coupled with the extant archeological features, suggests that this was perhaps the most active, if not the only, milling center in Montague Township over such a long period of time.

10. Geographical Data - Boundary justification

The rural character of the Millville area specifically and Montague Township generally makes the use of township tax maps unwieldy in determining district boundaries. The contemporary tax map, prepared in 1980, does not reflect the most recent changes, nor does it adequately reflect the historical changes in the character of land ownership that

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relates directly to the industrial activity that makes this district unique. For these reasons, the boundaries of the district were determined more by the available documentary data and the extant features and structures associated with the mills and their owners, than with modern tax map delineations. Although some of the surrounding open land was most likely associated with the farming activity of the mill owners, the focus of this district is the industrial milling activity and its uniqueness in Montague Township. Modern residential development has only begun to encroach upon the eastern borders of the district; the remainder is surrounded by the Delaware Water Gap National Recreation Area and is composed of open farmland presently under cultivation and overgrown fields indicative of their previous agricultural use.

The chosen boundaries therefore reflect the concentration of industrial activity that characterized the Millville area from the late eighteenth through the nineteenth centuries.