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 SAINT VINCENT ARCHABBEY (MONASTERY) GRISTMILL
AND/OR COMMON The Gristmill

2 LOCATION
STREET & NUMBER Saint Vincent Archabbey and College
CITY, TOWN Latrobe
STATE Pennsylvania
CITY,TOWN
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
CITY, TOWN
CITY, TOWN

3 CLASSIFICATION
CATEGORY DISTRICT BUILDING(S) STRUCTURE
OBJECT
OWNERSHIP PUBLIC PRIVATE BOTH
PUBLIC ACQUISITION

STATUS OCCUPIED UNOCCUPIED WORK IN PROGRESS ACCESSIBLE
YES: RESTRICTED YES: UNRESTRICTED NO

PRESENT USE AGRICULTURE MUSEUM
COMMERCIAL PARK
EDUCATIONAL PRIVATE RESIDENCE
ENTERTAINMENT RELIGIOUS
GOVERNMENT SCIENTIFIC
INDUSTRIAL TRANSPORTATION
MILITARY OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY
NAME Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County
STREET & NUMBER Saint Vincent Archabbey and College
CITY, TOWN Latrobe
STATE Pennsylvania

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION
COURTHOUSE REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC Archives of the Benedictine Society of Westmoreland County
STREET & NUMBER Saint Vincent Archabbey
CITY, TOWN Latrobe
STATE Pennsylvania

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS
TITLE The Pennsylvania Inventory of Historic Places
DATE 12/3/76
DEPOSITORY FOR SURVEY RECORDS Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
CITY, TOWN Harrisburg
STREET & NUMBER
CITY, TOWN
STATE Pennsylvania
The Saint Vincent Archabbey Gristmill was built in 1854. In a letter to the Abbot of Kremsmunster Germany dated January 24, 1854, the Abbot of Saint Vincent Abbey, Abbot Boniface, describes the new gristmill as follows: At the foot of the hill stands an entirely new steam mill which is 45' by 40' and four stories high. Since 1854, two additions have been added to the original structure, a 35' by 40' addition in 1855 and a 45' by 45' addition in 1883. The building is rectangular with a gabled roof having three stories facing the south or main entrance and four stories with the basement facing the north.

The structure frame is made of hand hewn chestnut and was originally covered with chestnut clapboard siding. Today the outside walls are covered with a beige insul-brick siding which is in deteriorated condition. The foundation is of local sandstone.

The interior and main structure are in good condition due to continued use (123 years) and upkeep. Never a water powered mill, it was originally run by steam but in 1952 electric motors were installed. All three three-ton French flint mill stones are still in use as are the complex system of bucket elevators, belt conveyors and sifting machines.
The scope of significance of the gristmill touches several areas; agriculture, architecture, engineering and religion.

The gristmill as an agricultural "tool" is today as it was 123 years ago, having been in continuous operation for this span of time. It was the core of the agricultural community not only an economic center but a center of social life as well.

Architecturally, the style of the gristmill certainly was influenced by the fact that the monks who built it were Bavarians and would have used the styles that were familiar to them. The ability of the building to endure time alone is a tribute to the industry of that generation. The trend in this section of Pennsylvania at this period of time (1850's) was the Greek Revival style but these secular styles had little influence on the master craftsmen who built the gristmill. The greater tradition of 1,500 years of monastic architecture shaped the lines by which these men built. The simplicity of line and honesty of material are the chief elements by which these monks planned and constructed their buildings.

Because the gristmill is still in operation using most of the original methods and equipment, it offers the student an excellent opportunity to see an 19th century gristmill in operation. The mill is interesting for its layout and milling system which includes a complex system of elevators, belt drives, gear drives, alarm systems for low grain levels, the wooden hoist for raising the stone and a host of other intricate devices.

Saint Vincent Monastery is first and foremost a religious community of Benedictine monks. Founded in 1846, Saint Vincent was the first Benedictine Monastery in America. They came to praise God and to serve their fellow men. The Monastery was not only the spiritual center of the larger secular community that sprang up around the Monastery, but also the community that was looked up to to lead others in the advancement of education, science, agriculture, animal husbandry and all the other aspects of life.
MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES (Partial listing of the Wimmer Correspondence contained in the following Archives): Archives of: Saint Vincent Archabbey, Latrobe, Pa.; Ludwig-Missionverein, Munich, Germany; Royal Archives, Munich, Germany; Abbey of St. Paul's-Outside-the-Walls, Rome, Italy; Metten Abbey, Metten, West Germany; Scheyern Abbey, Scheyern, West Germany. KDKA Television New Films, American Benedictine Review, Congressional Record, Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph, Pittsburgh Renaissance Magazine, Greensburg Tribune Review, Latrobe Bulletin.

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre
UTM REFERENCES
A 17 35 45 40
ZONE 61 65 64 64
EASTING 17 15 15 14
NORTHING 45 40 40 40

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

1 FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/TITLE
Brother Dennis Jeffcoat, O.S.B./Susan M. Zacher, Curator
ORGANIZATION
Benedictine Society of Westmoreland Co.
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm.
DATE 11/14/76 1/25/77
STREET & NUMBER
Saint Vincent Archabbey/P. O. Box 1026
TELEPHONE 717-787-4363
CITY OR TOWN Latrobe/Harrisburg
STATE Pennsylvania

12 STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER CERTIFICATION
THE EVALUATED SIGNIFICANCE OF THIS PROPERTY WITHIN THE STATE IS:
NATIONAL __ STATE ___ LOCAL X

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
TITLE William J. Wewer, Executive Director
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission
DATE

FOR NPS USE ONLY
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION
EST:

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER
GEORGIOGRAPHICAL DATA
ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY 1 acre

UTM REFERENCES

ZONE EASTING NORHTING

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

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

STATE CODE COUNTY CODE

FORM PREPARED BY
NAME/TITLE
Brother Derris Jeffcoat O.S.B./Susan M. Zacher, Curator

ORGANIZATION Benedictine Society of Westmoreland Co4 Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Comm.

STREET & NUMBER Saint Vincent Archabbey/P. O. Box 1026

CITY OR TOWN Latrobe/Harrisburg

STATE Pennsylvania

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STATE HISTORIC PRESERVATION OFFICER SIGNATURE

WILLIAM J. WEEGER, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
Pennsylvania Historical & Museum Commission

DATE 7/29/77

FOR NPS USE ONLY

HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PROPERTY IS INCLUDED IN THE NATIONAL REGISTER

DATE

DIRECTOR, OFFICE OF ARCHAEOLOGY AND HISTORIC PRESERVATION

ATTEST.

KEEPER OF THE NATIONAL REGISTER