

The Mintner Mill
North Mehoopany, Pennsylvania

H. A. B. S. No. Pa. 238

HABS
PA
66-MEHOPN,
1-

Record of Historical Buildings
PHOTOGRAPHS
WRITTEN HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA
District of Pennsylvania

Historic American Buildings Survey
Thomas H. Atherton, District Officer
97 South Franklin St., Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

HABE
PA
66. MEMPH

THE KINTNER MILL
NORTH MEHCOPLET, PENNSYLVANIA

Owner: Hartley Kintner

Date of Erection: 1842

Builder: Paul Bishop Jennings

Present Condition: General lines of the building remain unchanged. There is a three story addition to the right of the original building. Modern steel water wheel has been placed. Most of the original workings have been replaced by modern machinery. Stairways, doors and most of the flooring is original. Monitor was placed later.

Number of Stories: Five, including monitor.

Materials of Construction: Stone foundations. Exterior walls, wood siding; interior finish, wood. Wooden girders are supported by wooden posts, with hand made wooden pins in some of the posts. Flooring is North Carolina pine. Stairways are of yellow pine. Roof is covered with ribbed tin (modern)

TW 10/17/40

THE KINTNER MILL
Mehoopany, Wyoming County, Pennsylvania

Mehoopany Township was formed from Windham in 1844. The name is of Indian origin. The pioneer settlers arrived here in 1775. The pioneer grist mill was built in 1806, two or three rods above the site of the present mill on the Little Mehoopany, by William, Joseph and John Carney. The present structure was built in 1842 by Paul Bishop Jennings. The older mill ran for many years and when torn down, was completely worn out. Originally, there was a canal next to the present mill which was used for shipping grain down the river in the old canal boats. Coal was usually returned. At first, the purpose of the mill was to grind only the farmer's grain. It was then used not only for this, but also for the manufacture of buckwheat flour which was shipped to some of the foreign countries.

Paul Bishop Jennings, builder of the mill was a native of York, England where he was reared until about sixteen years of age when he came to America, first locating in Philadelphia. There he worked for a lumberman for a number of years but in 1831, came to Grist Flats, Mehoopany Township and purchased a farm about three miles from the village of Mehoopany on which he resided only a short time. He then bought the tract where North Mehoopany is now located, it being at that time, all timber land on which he then erected the saw and grist mill. These he operated for many years, or until his sons were old enough to take charge of the business. He extensively engaged in the manufacture of lumber and rafted the same down the river. Energetic and progressive, he met with excellent success in his undertakings and left a valuable estate at the time of his death, which occurred on the old homestead in December, 1864 when he had reached the age of seventy-two. As a leading Republican of his township, he was elected to nearly all the local offices.

Joseph T. Jennings, who took over the operation of the mill after the retirement of his father, was about four years of age, when brought by his parents to Mehoopany, and he remained with his father until he was twenty-two, clerking in his father's store and assisting in the mills.

He and his brother, William then rented all their father's interests, with the exception of the farm, and purchased about one thousand acres of heavily timbered land at what is now known as Jenningsville.

After Joseph Jennings gave up his interest in the mill, his son, John B. Jennings took over the operations. The mill remained in the possession of the Jennings family for sixty-eight years; it was then owned and operated by S. A. Secor for two years; for five years, by Roy Hardie; for one year by Case Vaughn; for two years by Will Colt, and has been in the possession of the Kintner family for the past eighteen years.

The Kintner family have been engaged in the milling business for three generations. M. S. Kintner, one of the early settlers in Mehoopany, ran one of the first grist mills which has since been torn down. This mill, built in 1823, was added to by Mr. Kintner. Hartley Kintner, present owner of the Kintner mill was born in 1896, son of Fred J. Kintner and grandson of M. S. Kintner. Hartley Kintner, in partnership with M. S. Kintner, Jr., Fisher Welles, Jr., and Clayton Welles, took over the operations and ownership of the mill in March, 1920. They immediately began to modernize the mill. They discarded the wheat and buckwheat machinery as there was no further use for it. They also made various changes in the building itself. The mill is now operated by Hartley Kintner, two full-time employees and two part-time employees.

The mill is in good condition and although it has been considerably modernized, it is a good example of mill construction. It was originally four stories high, but is now five, including the monitor. The monitor type roof and the addition on the right side of the mill were both probably placed some time late in the nineteenth century. A definite date has not been determined.

The materials of construction are: Exterior walls, wood siding; interior, all wood construction. Foundations are stone which rise above the ground about twelve feet and are reputed to be the same height under the surface. The walls were put up by George Henning, who was born in Winderhausen, Germany. He came to Mehoopany in 1841 and began work on the mill the following year.

The mill has always been run entirely by water power. The old wooden wheel was removed about 1908. The modern steel wheel is a replica of the wooden one. It is 24 ft. in diameter. Most of the doors, flooring

and stairways are original. The doors on each floor, facing the front, are original. They have, somewhat recently, been cut in half like Dutch doors. The present roof is gabled front and rear with monitor. It is covered with ribbed tin, which is modern. Originally, it was pitched and gabled and had a wheel box at top.

A covered sluice way, repaired several times, but still the original design, runs direct from mill to dam, about an eighth of a mile north-east. It is constructed of wood with supports approximately every four feet.

Originally, there was a small plaster mill at left side of present mill, but this has since been removed. There is now a small shed used for storage. Three story addition to right of mill follows the general lines of the original structure. On the first floor, the newer portion is used principally for storage and is partitioned off into one very large, and two smaller rooms. On the second floor, the front portion is used as an office. One of the original side windows is still to be seen in the office partition. On the third floor the addition at present, is not in use. Here, there are traces of the original wall which has been left partially intact.

The first floor of the original building is used for storing of mixed feeds and contains some machinery, particularly the molasses plant. All retail sales are made here. Originally, the main entrance was a door at right of mill. There is now a cement platform with steps at either side leading to main entrance at direct front of mill. Stairway to left of entrance leads to second floor. It is constructed of yellow pine, two stringers, 3 x 8 treads notched into stringers, no risers, rail bannisters. The stairway is the same leading to all floors. Most of the steps are original. There are heavy wooden girders supported by thick, wooden posts. In some of the supporting posts, there are hand-made wooden pins. The flooring is pine, of random widths, and most of it original except in the addition. On this floor, there are grain elevators which are modern with modern tin cups. There are wheels, pulleys, bevels etc., most of which are modern. A very wide door leads to newer addition. This was the original side entrance to the mill.

On the second floor, we have the same lay-out as the original portion of the first floor. Stairway leads to third. There are modern bins, drawers etc. Some of the flooring is not original here. This floor is

used for sacking and separating the grain, grinding and mixing. It is also used for storing separate ingredients. It is not partitioned off, except for a small office. There are four windows on the right side, two on the left side, two at the front and three at the rear. A very wide rear door leads to what is the first floor in the rear. Another small door opens on the mill wheel cavity.

On the third floor, which is used almost entirely for storage of bulk grain, the flooring is all original. There are wood box bins which are very old but not original. These are used for storage of wheat and corn. The entire third floor is one large room with only the bins forming the partitions. There are four windows on either side and three rear windows, but no rear door.

The fourth floor has the same lay out as the others, but with an extended roof for head room for machinery, pulleys, etc. This floor is used for elevator head, for separating and storage. Here, as on all other floors, there are heavy timbers supporting the building, grain elevators and a great deal of machinery. There is a ladder stairway and a cat walk for the monitor. There are four windows at either side of monitor and a dormer window on the roof acts as a ventilator. There is one rear window and a Dutch door at front, as on all other floors.

Historical information obtained from the following: Hartley Kintner, owner of the mill; "History of Luzerne, Lackawanna and Wyoming Counties" - 1786-1830, by W. W. Munsell & Co., "Portrait and Biographical Record of Wyoming and Lackawanna Counties" - 1897 by Chapman Publishing Company; Mr. Jennings, grand-son of Joseph Jennings.

Author *Bette Toal Manning*

Approved *Thomas H. Kintner*

Date *August 16, 1938*