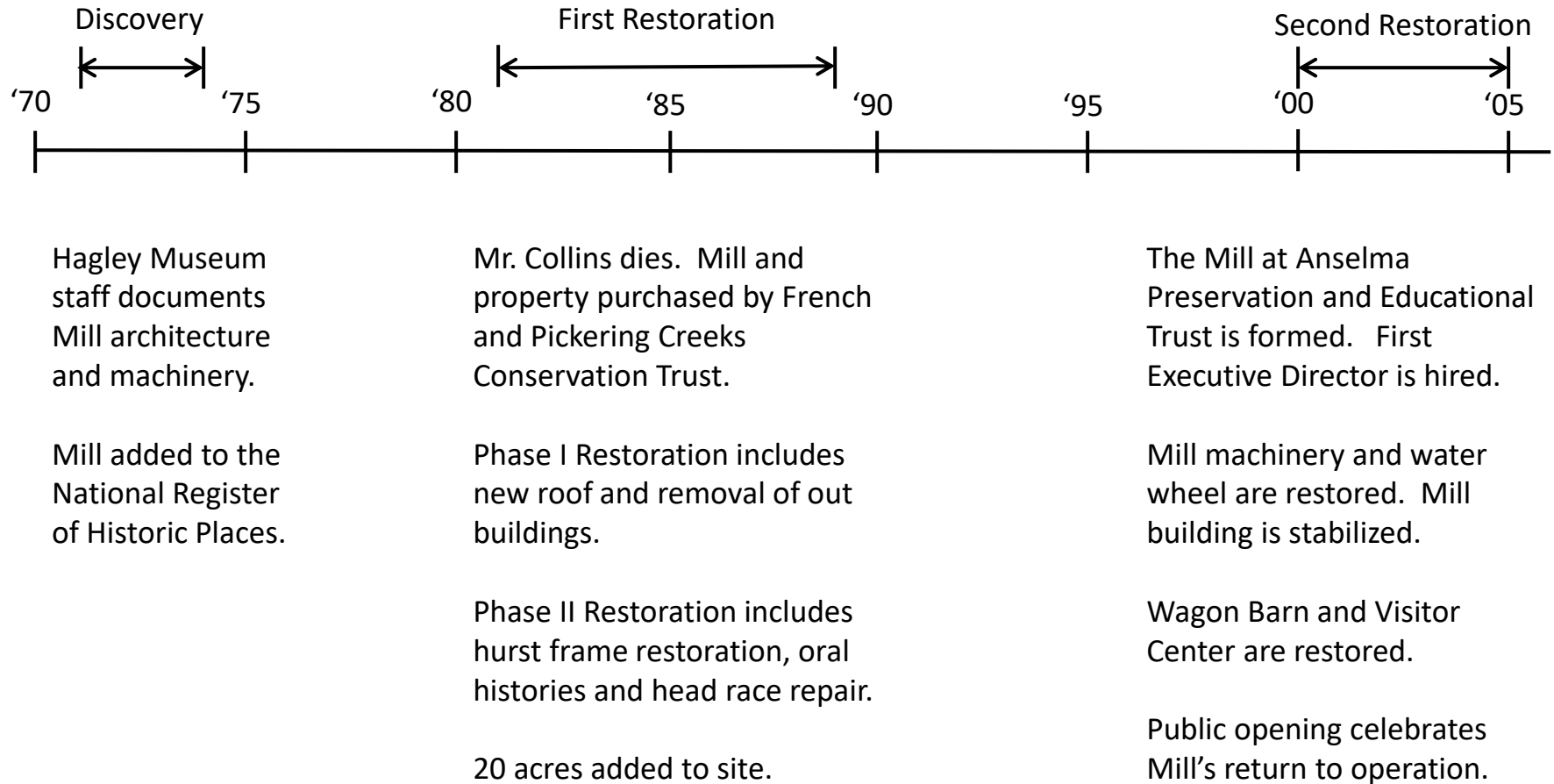


The Mill at Anselma

Restoration History, 1971 - 2004

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The Mill at Anselma Restoration History



Restoration History

Discovery

- 1971 Stephen Kindig, molinologist, discovers the Mill and brings it to the attention of Eleanor Morris, President of the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust. She and Mr. Collins become friends.
- Winter, 1972 Mr. John Tyler, Curator of Science, Industry and Technology at the William Penn Memorial Museum visits the Mill. He recommends that Mrs. Morris contact Mr. Eugene Ferguson, Curator of Technology at the Hagley Museum. Mr. Tyler and Mr. Ferguson are very impressed with the Mill.
- April, 1972 Mr. Ferguson proposes plan to document the Mill. He anticipates four weeks of field work by Hagley Museum personnel beginning July 4, 1972. Costs to be borne by Hagley Museum.
 - Make records of interviews with Mr. Collins
 - Inventory significant materials in the Mill
 - Make measured drawings of Mill machinery and building
- 1972-1973 Most of the work completed by Mr. Frank McKelvey, Jr, Curator of Mechanical Arts at the Hagley Museum.
 - Over 500 photographs
 - Inventory of Mr. Collins machinery
 - Drawings of Mill architecture and Mill machinery, both hand sketched and scaled.
- 1973 Mill added to National Register of Historic Places.

Restoration History (continued)

First Restoration

- 1981 Trust purchases house, barn and Anselma Store to prevent any other construction which would obstruct the Mill.
- 1982 Mr. Collins dies. Collins Mill and property purchased by Trust for \$148,000 with loan from National Trust for Historic Preservation.
- 1983 House and barn sold to Mr. Eugene Jaeger for \$83,000. Horace Collins takes up residence in Simmers-Collins House. Phase I stabilization/restoration launched with request for bids. Winning bidder: Richard A. Lawrence Contractors. Bid items:
 - Dredge tail race
 - Remove cider press and saw mill buildings
 - New floor in basement
 - Door and window repair
 - New roof. Debate:
 - PHMC: Metal roof which is appropriate to the interpretation period 1875 – 1925
 - Mrs. Morris: Wood shingles which are appropriate to all periods
 - PHMC conceded to Mrs. Morris and approved the choice of wooden shingles
- June, 1984 Phase I work completed for \$85,319. (Actual work continued for another year by skilled craftsmen under the direction of Mr. John Bowie. This was called Phase I, Part 2, and dealt mostly with door and window restoration.)

Restoration History (continued)

- Stephen Kindig's instructions to craftsmen: "Craftsmen are to leave any dust on the windows and window sills because any operating mill will have dust and debris on the window sills".
- Fall, 1985 Phase II launched.
- 1985 – 1988 Phase II accomplishments:
 - Oral history interviews conducted by Professor John Turner, WCU
 - Head race repaired, water returned to the Mill
 - Archeological investigation conducted for a portion of the site
 - \$148,000 debt reduced to \$20,000
 - 20 acres added to the site, 8 acres from Mr. and Mrs. Morris, 12 acres from Joseph Piccone
 - New driveway and parking area added
 - Hurst frame restored
 - Walls of wheel pit restored
 - Historic American Buildings Survey drawings produced by John Bowie
- 1989 All debts paid off.

Restoration History (Continued)

Second Restoration

- 1998 The Mill at Anselma Preservation and Educational Trust is formed.
- 2000 Water wheel is removed from the Mill for restoration at the Pottstown Metal Welding Company. The Mill Trust acquires the mill property from the French and Pickering Creeks Conservation Trust through grants from Chester County and West Pikeland Township.
- 2002 Structural work on the Mill begins. Mill Trust Board hires its first Executive Director. Water wheel and forebay are restored and are reinstalled in the Mill.
- 2003 – 2004 Mill machinery and millstones are restored. Wagon Barn/Visitor Center is restored. Water Wheel Celebration returns the Mill to operation.
- 2004 – 2005 Simmers-Collins House, Chicken Coop and Springhouse are restored. Mill at Anselma is named a National Historic Landmark. Mill obtains license to sell flour from the PA Department of Agriculture.