

Hershey's Mill Dam

Historical Photos & Maps

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East Goshen Board of Supervisors Meeting
February 21, 2017

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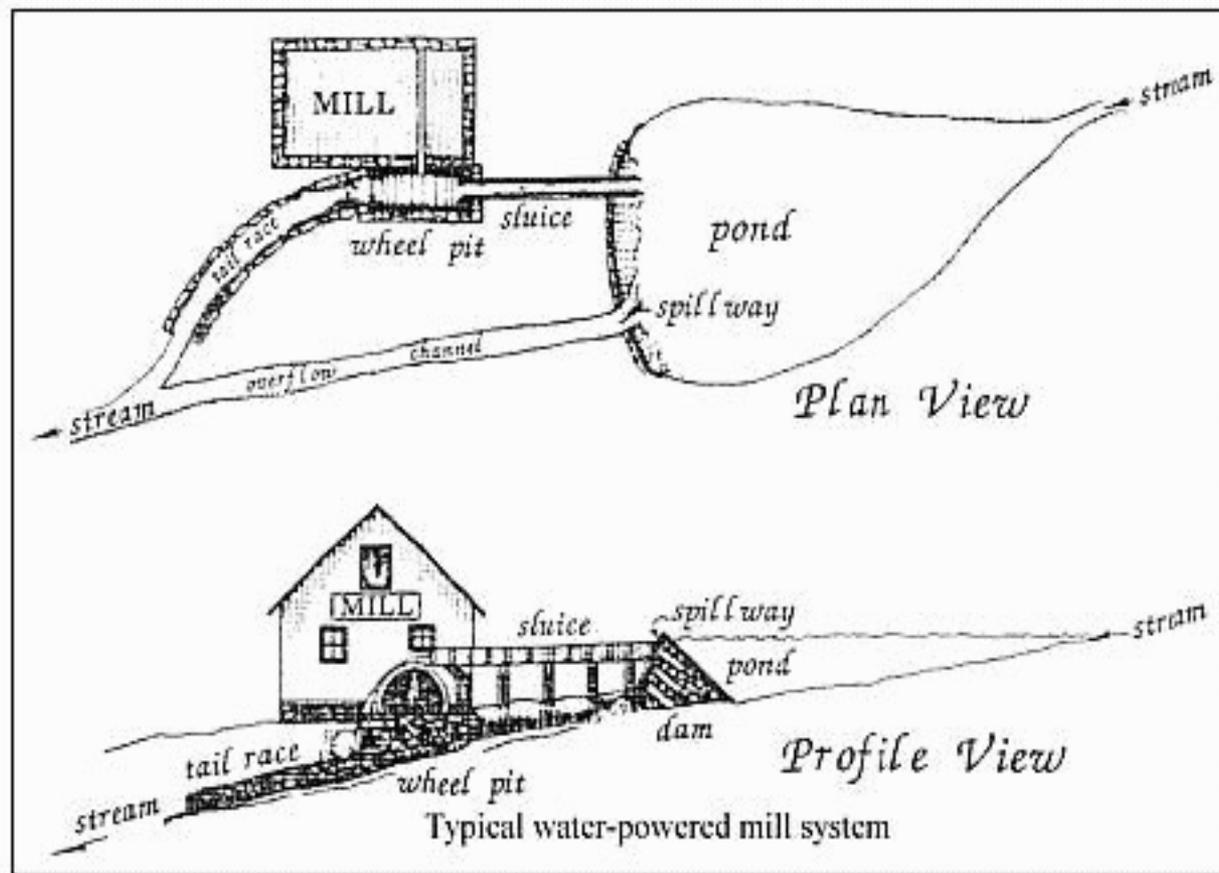
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Title Slide Photographs:

- Modern View of Hershey's Mill Dam. (East Goshen Township website).
- View of Hershey's Mill Pond circa 1930s. (Chester County Historical Society library).
- Ox cart at Hershey' Mill circa 1890s. (Chester County Historical Society library. This also photo appears in *Images of America: East Goshen Township*, Linda M. Gordon, Arcadia Publishing, 2009, page 38.)

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Part of a Historic Mill Complex

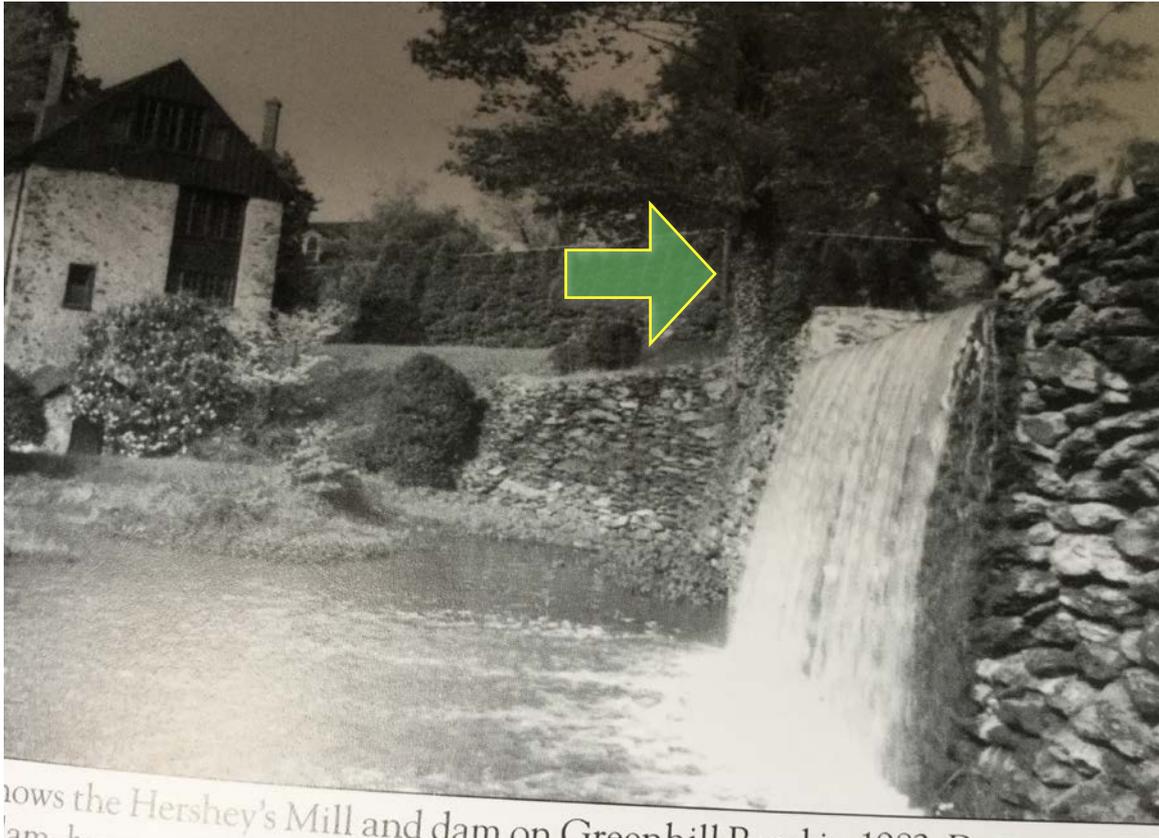


Source: "Historically: How to Site a Mill," Theodore R. Hazen, Angelfire.com/
Pond Lily Mill Restorations.

Hershey's Mill Dam was part of a water-powered mill complex since at least the 1800s. The Hershey's Mill complex differs from the typical one depicted in the adjacent diagram in two main ways: (1) It used a pipe under the dam to deliver water to the mill instead of a sluice. (Hershey's Mill originally may have used a sluice.) The pipe's now-shut intake is located immediately behind the dam close to Hershey Mill Road. (2) Its waterwheel was inside the building (for protection from the elements). The waterwheel was replaced by a water turbine sometime after August 8, 1881, when an article in the *Daily Local News* reported: "The shaft of the water wheel at Enoch Hershey's mill, in East Goshen township, broke on Saturday last..." (CCHS library.)

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Going Back in Time: 1982



This 1982 photo shows the major masonry walls of Hershey's Mill Dam with the old mill building in the background. The mill building was converted into a residence in the mid 20th century. Note the tree to the left of spillway/waterfall. That tree appears in photos of the dam going back at least to 1904 and still exists today.



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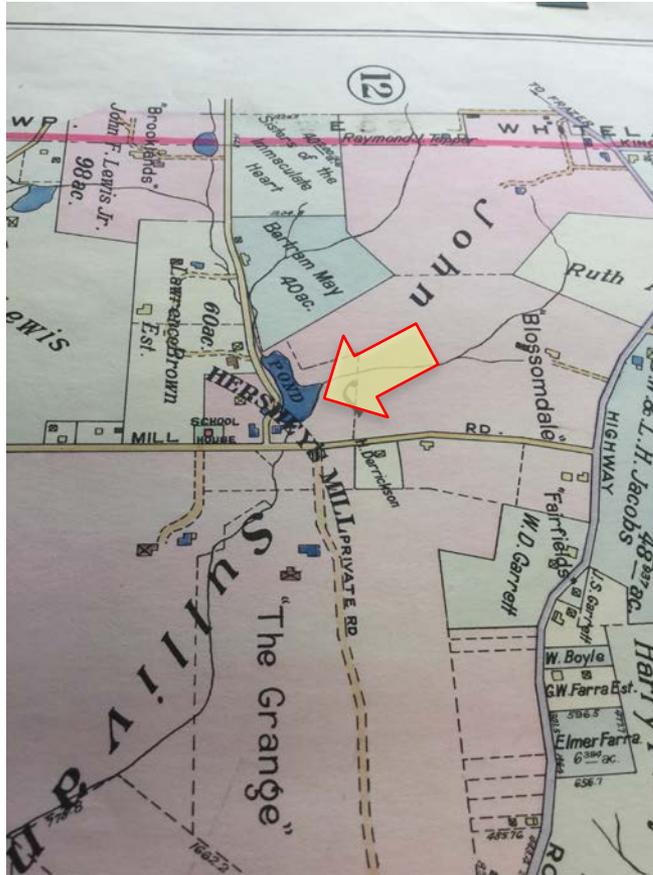
Going Back in Time: Early 1970s



These photos show Hershey's Mill Dam undergoing work to repair and strengthen the spillway, which was damaged by major flooding in 1972. The reinforced spillway was refaced with the original stones to maintain the dam's historic look. Note the tree to the left of the spillway, which is also visible in the preceding photo. The fact that the tree was not removed demonstrates that only a small (albeit significant) portion of the dam was affected by this work.

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Going Back in Time: 1933

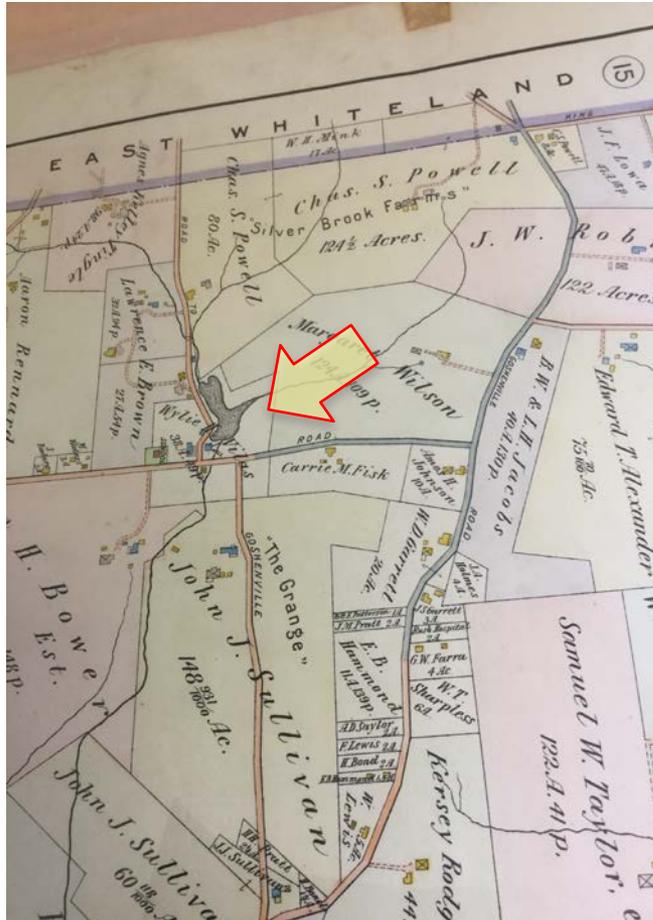


This 1933 map of East Goshen Township shows the mill pond and mill building in the same locations as today (which means the dam must have been there too). Also depicted are the historic (1) miller's house directly across Hershey Mill Road, (2) Maple Grove School to its left on Greenhill Road (now a residence), and (3) Sullivan House across Greenhill Road (now part of the Hershey's Mill Villages adult community). Street names have changed over the years. John J. Sullivan owned the mill site when this map was published.

Source: Property Atlas of Chester County Pennsylvania, Vol. 1, Franklin Survey Company, 1933.

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Going Back in Time: 1912



This 1912 map of East Goshen is very similar to the preceding 1933 map, except for property owner changes.

Source: East Goshen Map, A. H. Mueller, 1912.



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Going Back in Time: 1904 (or 1890?)

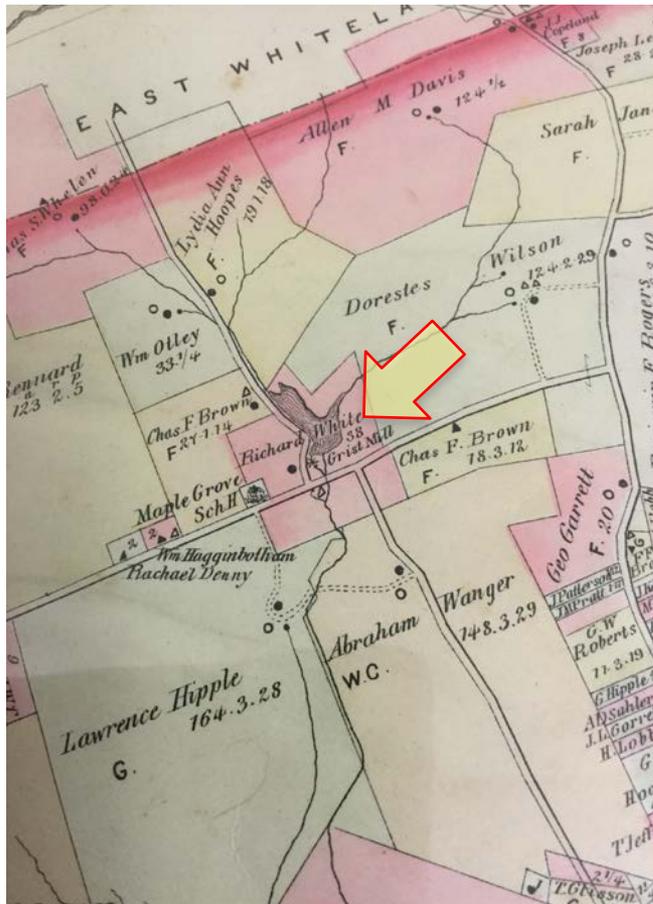


Note the familiar tree to the left of the spillway/waterfall. Also note the man dressed in late 19th or early 20th century attire, the gushing hole in the dam wall to the right of the spillway/waterfall, and flood debris on and under the dam. An article in the *Daily Local News* published in West Chester on February 23, 1904 reported the “big Hershey dam, in East Goshen, has been badly damaged by the flood [with] an immense hole torn in it yesterday...” The same newspaper reported on August 3, 1904 that the dam repairs were completed, allowing the “boys of the neighborhood” a place to swim again. These details and articles would seem to date the photo to early 1904. However, the same photo dated to 1890 appears in *Images of America: East Goshen Township*, Linda M. Gordon, Arcadia Publishing, 2009, page 38.

Source: This old image of Hershey's Mill Dam is from an undated photograph at the Chester County Historical Society's Library catalogued as *Waterfalls – E. Goshen Twp., Hershey Falls*.

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Going Back in Time: 1883



This 1883 map of East Goshen is very similar to the 1912 and 1933 maps shown on Slides 6 and 7 (except for property owner changes). It clearly depicts a “Grist Mill” and mill pond in the same locations as the existing Hershey’s Mill building and now-dry pond. This indicates that in 1883 the mill pond was impounded by the same dam that exists today.

Source: Breou’s Official Series of Farm Maps: Chester County Pennsylvania, W.H. Kirk & Co., Philadelphia, 1883.

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Going Back in Time: 1856



The above maps show East Goshen Township whereas this 1856 map shows all of Chester County. So it is less detailed. This map depicts a large pond above the place name “Reiff’s G. & S. M.” (grist and saw mill). Jacob Reiff acquired the mill property in 1841, according to deed records. The 1856 mill pond is located at the confluence of the same Ridley Creek tributaries that flow through the now-dry pond behind Hershey’s Mill Dam. “Reiff’s Mill” is located at the intersection of present day Hershey Mill and Greenhill Roads and undoubtedly is what we now call Hershey’s Mill.

Source: 1856 Chester County map, from *Atlas of Chester County* published by the Chester County Planning Commission.

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Going Back in Time: 1816

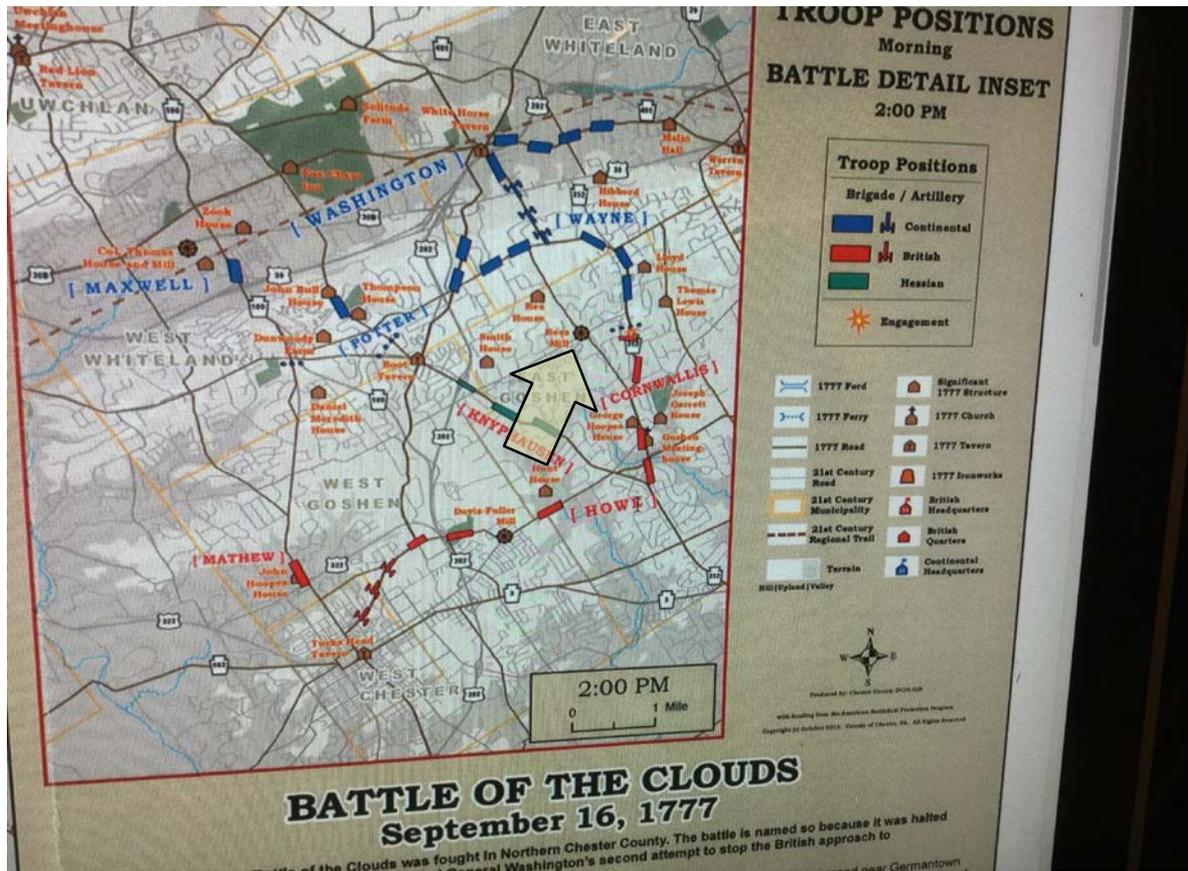


This 1816 map of Chester County depicts “Rees’s Mill” (using a waterwheel symbol) at the same location as “Reiff’s Mill” and “Hershey’s Mill” on the later maps shown above. (That is harder to deduce on this map because fewer roads are depicted and the roads that are shown are less detailed.) According to deed records, the mill property was owned by members of the Rees family from 1752 until 1825. Rachel S. Hershey (nee White), wife of Enoch P. Hershey, inherited the mill site in 1878. The Hersheys sold the property in 1912.

Source: 1816 Chester County map, from *Atlas of Chester County* published by the Chester County Planning Commission.

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Going Back in Time: 1777



This Battle of the Clouds map depicts “Rees Mill” (again using a waterwheel symbol) at the same location as “Rees’s Mill”, “Reiff’s Mill” and “Hershey’s Mill” on the preceding maps. It also depicts the location of a skirmish between American and British forces about one-half mile east of the mill site along North Chester Road just south of present day Greenhill Road. Another credible historical account places that skirmish on Thomas Rees’ property very near the mill site.* Thomas Rees submitted a sizable reparations claim for property damage and loss caused by British troops on September 16-17, 1777.**

Source: Battle of the Clouds map showing British and American troop positions on September 16, 1777, taken from a detailed report about the battle on East Goshen Township’s website.

* *History of Chester County Pennsylvania*, J. Smith Futhey and Gilbert Cope, Louis H. Everts, Philadelphia, 1881 (reprinted by Chester County Historical Society (1996 ed.), page 83.

** “*British Depredations Book*,” page 154, Chester County Historical Society library,

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Conclusion

- ❖ Hershey's Mill has existed at its current location since the 1700s under various owners and names.
- ❖ Hershey's Mill Dam in nearly its current form has existed since at least the 1800s and may very well be older.
- ❖ Hershey's Mill Dam is a significant historic structure in its own right and enhances the historic mill building.
- ❖ Hershey's Mill Pond further completes and enhances the historic mill complex.
- ❖ The East Goshen Board of Supervisors failed to give proper weight to historical preservation imperatives in its two votes to breach Hershey's Mill Dam.