

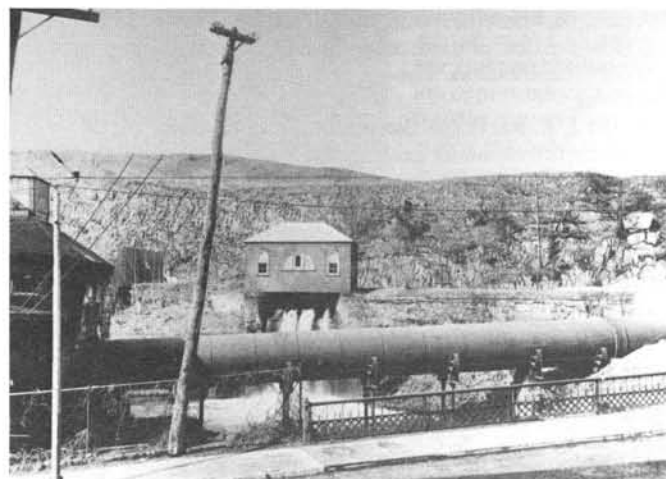
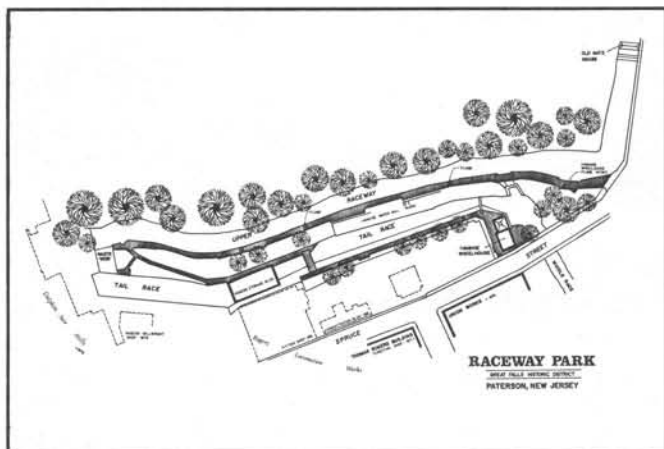
SOCIETY FOR INDUSTRIAL ARCHEOLOGY

NEWSLETTER

Volume 11, Number 3

Summer 1982

PARKS OPEN IN GREAT FALLS HISTORIC DISTRICT



Ivanhoe wheelhouse and spillway, Paterson, N.J., as they appeared in the early 20th century. Photographs courtesy Paterson Dept. of Community Development.



Ivanhoe wheelhouse and spillway as they appear today, restored as part of Raceway Park.

On June 25, N.J. Governor Thomas H. Kean and Paterson Mayor Lawrence F. Kramer celebrated the opening of Raceway Park, a reconstruction of the nation's earliest waterpower system [HAER] and a component of the city's multimillion-dollar restoration of the 119-acre Great Falls Historic District, a once-derelict mill area that today is a thriving business, residential, and tourist center.

Mary Ellen Kramer, wife of the Mayor and a leading force in the area's restoration, cracked a champagne bottle against a historic wheelhouse wall, signaling the release of a 22-ft.-high fall of water over a historic spillway into an equally historic water raceway below. Two tiers of raceways or canals once used to channel water from the Passaic River to Paterson's mills, a restored 19th-c. wheelhouse, two wooden bridges, a weir, and a gatehouse are all part of the \$2-million, four-acre Raceway Park, built with State of N.J. Green Acre Funds.

"Reconstructing this ingenious 18th-c. waterpower system was like putting pieces of history back together again," said the Mayor of the wooded area redesigned as a recreational and educational resource and located near the Great Falls of the Passaic River.

Federal, state, and city officials also joined the Governor and Mayor in dedicating the one-and-a-quarter-acre Cianci Park, actually a new city square built on top of former parking lots just one block from the city's major shopping street and at the entrance to the historic district. Still under construction, the \$700,000 Cianci Park, also built with state Green Acre funds, is Victorian in style with a 12-ft.-high fountain, a steel gazebo, and bocci courts. Cianci Park is part of a downtown neighborhood of two-story frame houses, ethnic restaurants, 19th-c. mill buildings, and a 700-car parking garage. Newly planted trees, new brick and concrete sidewalks, and lampposts reminiscent of an earlier era complete the plaza-like reconstruction of this area.

Both parks were designed to accommodate the thousands of annual visitors to the city and to the Great Falls District, declared a National Historic Landmark in 1976. Since that time the city has attracted more than \$16 million in public funds and an equal amount in private investment to build a new commercial and residential area

adjacent to the downtown and within the physical framework of mill buildings and streets that saw the introduction and growth of American industry.

"We are here to witness that Paterson has accomplished what it set out to do several years ago when it began blending public and private funds to create an attractive, economically viable climate for business and industry, and to create jobs for our citizens. Alexander Hamilton would be proud of us today," said the Mayor, referring to the man who recognized that the power inherent in the 77-ft. drop of the Great Falls could be harnessed to spawn an indigenous American industry. The City of Paterson was founded by Hamilton in 1792 as the first

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